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INDEPENDENT

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THE WEEK



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Storm over Murdoch plans to buy Manchester Utd for £575m

BY PAUL MCCANN AND ANDREW GRICE

FOOTBALL FANS and MPs joined forces yesterday to oppose Rupert Murdoch's astonishing £575m bid to buy Manchester United, the world's biggest football club.

Tony Banks, the sports minister, said it "set off alarm bells" while a United supporters' club described the planned sale as "ringing the death-knell of British football".

BSkyB, of which Mr Murdoch's News Corporation owns 40 per cent, and United, a stock market-listed business, confirmed yesterday that they have been holding negotiations for a friendly takeover of the club for five months and that the deal is almost done.

The negotiations have been between Mark Booth, BSkyB chief executive, and Martin Edwards, chief executive and major shareholder in Manchester United. It is understood the deal originated with Mr Booth and BSkyB's merchant bank Goldman Sachs. Mr Murdoch has not met the United negotiators.

Under the terms Mr Edwards and the management of United will stay in place, with the chief executive making an estimated £80m for his 14 per cent share in the club. An estimated 21,000 fans who own shares should also make a big profit. The proposed deal values Manchester United at £162m more than its closing price on Friday.

Mr Murdoch has bought baseball and basketball teams in America and is known to believe he needs to own teams to ensure sports develop in a way favourable to his television interests. The United deal would



United fans show their fervour at a European Cup tie in Portugal. A supporters' group said the BSkyB deal was 'ringing the death-knell of British football' Reuters

help him to lead the Premier League into a European Superleague and the televising of games by pay per view.

BSkyB's move has also been provoked by technical and regulatory developments that may soon let clubs sell coverage of

games direct to fans via digital television, without sharing the proceeds with TV companies.

Mr Banks said: "You can't just let something like this happen because if it goes through it could open up all sorts of consequences involving any

number of clubs afterwards."

Government sources went further, saying a full inquiry into the proposed takeover was inevitable. Ministers would have to consider the impact on sport and broadcasting as well as the law on competition.

Sources at BSkyB insist that the takeover would not be derailed by a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In his takeovers of newspapers Mr Murdoch has always threatened to end a deal if it was referred.

Privately, ministers are worried that the Government will face criticism if it approves the deal, as that might be seen as currying favour with Mr Murdoch in the hope that his newspapers support Labour at the next general election. "We will

have to tread cautiously and it may have to be stopped," said one source.

The Government is already under cross-party pressure to block the takeover. Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw and chairman of the all-party Com-

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mons group on football, said that if the Commons had been sitting, 100 MPs would have complained strongly that the deal involved unfair competition. "Are we going to see The Sun buying Chelsea and then maybe accountants in these clubs selling players for £10 or £15m to each other to balance the books? That cannot be fair trading," he said.

The Tory MP Roger Gale, vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Media Committee, accused Mr Murdoch of attempting to buy a vote around the Premiership table. Mr Gale, MP for North Thanet, said: "I am personally very saddened about this. I do not believe it is the place of media empires to own football teams."

Fans reacted badly to the news, with a small number gathering at United's ground to oppose the deal. Andy Walsh, of Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association, called on the Government to intervene.

A spokesman for Manchester United said: "Any decision taken by Manchester United will take into account the interests of shareholders, the club's fans, players and staff."

## Hawking defends animal testing

STEPHEN HAWKING defended the use of animals in medical research last night, claiming there was a "ridiculous" fuss over such experiments.

The cosmologist, who suffers from motor neurone disease and is confined to a wheelchair, also launched an outspoken attack on animal-rights extremists who use violence and intimidation against scientific organisations.

Professor Hawking said: "I think the fuss over the use of animals in medical research is ridiculous. Why is it worse to use animal experiments to save lives than to eat them, which

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

the majority of the population are happy to do? I suspect that extremists turn to animal rights from a lack of the more worthwhile causes of the past, like nuclear disarmament."

The Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge University timed his words to coincide with a debate last night on animal experiments at the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Cardiff, where scientists and anti-vivisectionists clashed over the use of animals in research.

The meeting came as more than 500 animal rights activists faced police in riot gear during a protest at a farm in Oxfordshire that breeds disease-free cats for research purposes.

Professor Colin Blakemore, an Oxford physiologist and outgoing president of the BA, who has been subjected to a sustained campaign by animal extremists, said experiments are still vital to progress in clinical research.

His arrival at yesterday's meeting was disrupted by the demonstration at Hill Grove Farm, which is near his Oxfordshire home.

THREE FORMER advisers to Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Jack Straw are secretly working on a project to undermine key Labour legislation on union recognition.

Neal Lawson, Ben Lucas and Jon Mendelsohn are advising Rupert Murdoch's company, News International, to claim Labour's Fairness at Work plans are "unworkable".

The role of their lobbying company, LLM, in attempting to keep unions out of the workplace is likely to raise accusations of hypocrisy among trade unionists when the annual

BY STEVE BOGGAN

Trades Union Congress conference convenes next week. Mr Lawson and Mr Lucas are former full-time officials.

Under the proposed legislation, employees would have the right to be represented by a trade union if more than 50 per cent of the workforce voted in favour of recognition.

Mr Murdoch, who crushed the unions at his Wapping plant in the 1980s, finds the legislation unacceptable - as does most of the newspaper industry. News International con-

firmed last week that it has retained LLM, but Jane Reed, its director of corporate affairs, said the lobbyists' role was only to "monitor events and gather intelligence. Not on matters of strategy."

However, The Independent has learnt that LLM's role in advising on the Fairness at Work White Paper and a second raft of legislation, the Competition Bill, which deals with media ownership and predatory pricing, goes much deeper.

According to News International sources and documents seen by The Independent, Mr

Lucas, 36, who worked with the Blair team during the general election, had a meeting with Ms Reed last month at which it was agreed that LLM would suggest a strategy to deal with the Fairness at Work proposals.

Subsequently, he wrote to her saying: "LLM strongly believes that the News International strategy should not be based around opposing the principles of the Bill, but rather selecting aspects of the Bill which can be argued are unworkable."

He goes on to say "News International strategy" should be based on building cross-

party support. He also advises organising a poll of those aged 18 to 35 because "amongst this target audience, employees would rather be responsible for negotiating their own pay and conditions than relying on an outside body such as a trade union".

On the Competition Bill, LLM's task is to smooth the Bill's passage through the House of Lords, which threw it out in July for not being tough enough on the concentration of media power and on the Murdoch tactic of predatory pricing. Inside track, page 6

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					Lancashire won the NatWest Trophy by overwhelming Derbyshire by nine wickets at Lord's <b>PAGE 22</b>



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David Trimble and Gerry Adams indulged in the political equivalent of pre-match verbal sparring yesterday in advance of their potentially historic meetings in Belfast this week. **Page 4**

## Kurosawa, emperor of film, dies

Akira Kurosawa, called the emperor of Japanese cinema for such films as *The Seven Samurai* and *Rashomon*, has died, aged 88. **Page 6**

## Crash plane suffered power loss

The aircraft that crashed into the sea off Canada, killing all 229 people on board, seems to have suffered a catastrophic loss of power. **Page 8**

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Tony Blair will reject the 'big bang' reform of the monarchy proposed by a leading think-tank, but will impose a financial squeeze on the Royal Family. **Page 9**

## FOREIGN NEWS

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## Black rights march ends in riot

The 'Million Youth March' in Harlem attracted a crowd of fewer than 10,000 but none the less ended in clashes with police that left 22 people injured. **Page 10**

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North Korea has pronounced its 'Dear Leader' Kim Jong Il head of state but disappointed expectations that he would follow his father as president. **Page 11**

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Bangladesh's catastrophic floods have worsened, with monsoon rains adding to swollen rivers. **Page 12**

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Airbus and Boeing, the two aerospace giants, are poised to unveil aircraft orders worth up to \$3.7bn (£5.4bn) at this week's Farnborough airshow. **Page 13**

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Liffe, the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, is considering a merger with the London Clearing House. **Page 15**

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## Saracens' new stars come good

Saracens' three summer signings all scored tries as the Allied Dunbar title favourites opened their season with a 34-7 home rout of Northampton. **Page 20**

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George Graham, the Leeds manager, is tipped to succeed Christian Gross at Tottenham Hotspur. **Page 28**

## MONDAY REVIEW

20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

## Anne McElvoy

'Early comparisons with Blair, assiduously pursued by Schröder himself, are turning out to be something of a burden: as wearisome as being measured beside a flawless cousin.' **Page 3**

## Trevor Phillips

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Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997



Animal rights protesters clash with police at Witney as they tried to march on a farm breeding cats for live experiments **Andrew Buurman**

## Activists besiege cat farm

BY LOUISE JURY

HUNDREDS of animal rights activists again laid siege at the weekend to the controversial Hill Grove Farm in Oxfordshire, where cats are bred for vivisection experiments.

The protesters, who objected to the breeding of special cats which do not suffer from various common cat viruses, faced mounted police in full riot gear who formed a roadblock 250 yards from the centre of Witney.

The protest was tense and there were angry exchanges. Nine men and one woman were arrested for offences including assault, affray and public order problems. Hundreds of police from six forces were at the protest, or on stand-by.

One landlord locked his patrons inside the pub until the marchers passed by after children and customers became upset by the chanting. Earlier animal rights rallies had led to clashes with the police.

## Blair facing grassroots revolts

DEEP DISQUIET among the

Labour grass roots across the

range of government policies is

revealed in a report to be pre-

sented to the party's annual

conference later this month.

The document, leaked to

The Independent, discloses

that party members oppose

vital elements of the Govern-

ment's education strategy.

They are worried about Tony

Blair's strong support for Pres-

ident Bill Clinton during in-

ternational crises and want

Robin Cook's "ethical foreign

policy" to be given more teeth.

The report provides the first

insight into the views ex-

pressed by grassroots Labour

BY ANDREW GRICE

Political Editor

members during a new policy-making process that is designed to prevent a repeat of the conflict between the party and previous Labour governments.

Instead of the annual conference debating every subject each year, issues are being discussed behind closed doors by new policy commissions involving cabinet ministers, Labour's National Executive Committee, constituency parties and trade unions. Although the power of local parties to submit resolutions to the conference has been curbed, many

have used the new policy-making machinery to protest about the actions of ministers.

The introduction of university tuition fees and scrapping of maintenance grants was very unpopular with several constituencies warning that fees would discourage students from low income families.

The decision to set up 25 education action zones, in which local authorities work with business to improve schools, was attacked by several parties as "privatisation by the back door".

Luton South warned: "The introduction of education action zones will lead to the loss of local democratic control of education, and to the privatisation of schools." There was some scepticism that the Government's plans to cut primary-school class sizes would be achieved on schedule.

Some local parties were angry at Mr Blair's insistence that 40 per cent of a workforce will have to take part in a ballot before trade unions win recognition rights. They are pressing for a simple majority of those voting to be enough.

There was also opposition to the 23 an hour minimum wage to be introduced for 18 to 21-year-olds next year, which is 60p less than the adult rate, and calls for ministers to remove

the element of compulsion from the New Deal programme for the jobless.

On foreign policy, there was hostility to Mr Blair's strong support for President Clinton, particularly over his hawkish line during the Iraq weapons crisis in February. The report says: "This caused considerable concern throughout the country, as demonstrated by the large number of resolutions received from the party against possible British military strikes and economic sanctions."

Mr Cook was pressed to beef up his "ethical foreign policy" by imposing punitive sanctions against Indonesia over its

actions against the people of East Timor. Several parties protested about Britain selling arms to Indonesia, while there was also criticism of the Government's decision to spend £147m on new Trident missiles.

Hostility was also expressed at the Government's failure to provide parliamentary time for a Bill to ban hunting with dogs.

"The sensitivity and strong feeling on this issue was recognised by the commission," says the report.

There was also strong pressure for walkers to be given access to the countryside, another pledge Labour has not yet delivered.

## BRITAIN TODAY

## KEY

14 Temperature, °C  
30 Wind speed, mph and direction

16 18 17 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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# One man's obsession to beat the world of sport into submission

BY PAUL MCCANN  
AND RUPERT CORNWELL

RUPERT MURDOCH'S £575m bid for Manchester United, the world's most valuable sporting name, is confirmation that the tycoon's business plan has moved from owning the television rights to sport to controlling sport itself.

Sports rights have made his business what it is. In 1992 BSkyB, in which he has a 40 per cent stake, made a loss of £47m, then stunned the football and broadcasting worlds by paying £192m for five years of Premier League television rights. The previous contract had cost ITV just £44m.

Mr Murdoch's gamble worked and in 1993 subscriptions to his services rose from 1.8m homes to 2.5m and profits rose to £61m. The next year subscriptions rose to 3.9m homes and profits were up to £170m. Sport helped BSkyB's turnover to rise by 333 per cent to over £1bn in five years.

In 1996, to secure his grip on the Premier League, BSkyB paid a mammoth £670m for a new four-year contract.

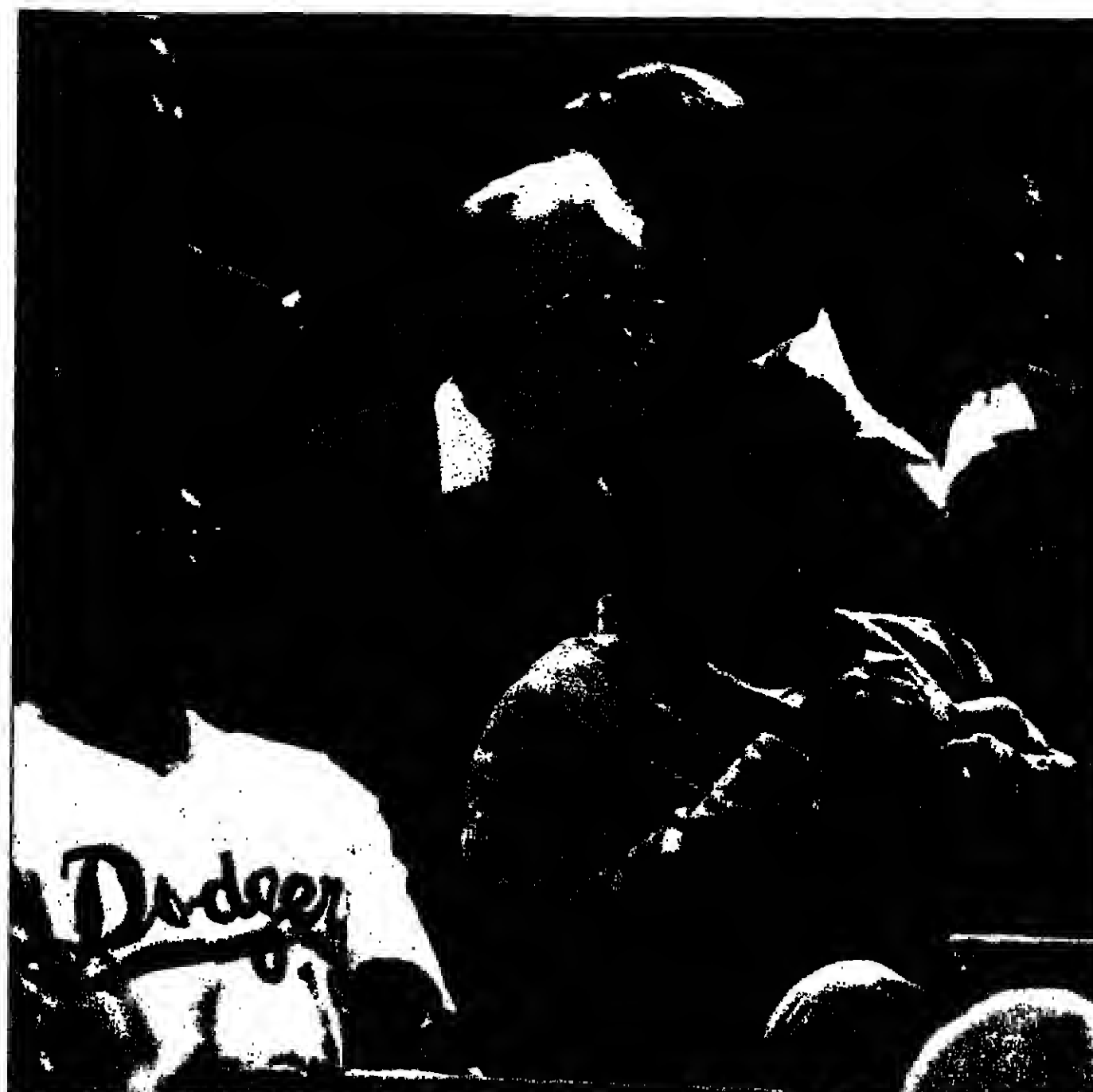
By paying so much for football Mr Murdoch is able to move games to nights of the week that suit his TV station.

Other sports have followed the same pattern. When he bought the television rights to Rugby League in 1995 he horrified traditionalists by creating a Super League that required teams to merge, change names and play in the summer, all to fit his scheduling needs.

In the US Mr Murdoch's Fox network has pursued the same strategy. Since it bought the rights to the National Football League in 1993 for \$1.5bn (£940m) it has moved from being the fourth-choice channel for valuable 18 to 49-year-olds to second. Fox now has the rights to the National Hockey League, Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association. In June Fox renewed its contract with the NFL for \$4bn (£2.5bn).

Now having unlocked the hidden value in televised sports Mr Murdoch has realised that it is the teams who will reap the benefit of digital technology, which will allow them to create their own channels and sell games directly to fans. He has decided to join them.

In January the Restrictive Practices Court will sit to decide whether the current television contract between the Premier League and BSkyB is anti-competitive. The Office of Fair Trading contends that the Premier League is acting as a cartel by selling football's tele-



Rupert Murdoch, taken out to the old ball game, watches his Los Angeles Dodgers in action. He paid £210m for the team, less than half his bid for Manchester United

vision rights as a group, rather than letting individual teams sell rights to their own games.

If the teams get the right to sell their own games they are likely to set up their own television channels to sell the games on digital frequencies on a pay-per-view basis. By creating "electronic season ticket holders" the teams could cut out the middleman and make more money themselves.

The first team to set up its own channel was Manchester United, which launched a channel with BSkyB and Granada Television last month. The channel was just to broadcast team news, behind-the-scenes reports and archive footage. Unless the Restrictive Practices Court breaks up the cur-

rent Premiership deal it will not be able to show live Manchester United games.

But if Manchester United ends up in the hands of BSkyB the satellite broadcaster is covered whatever way the court rules. If the OFT's case is thrown out it keeps its Premiership contract until 2004. If the Premiership's deal is ruled anti-competitive, Mr Murdoch will have the rights to the most valuable team in Britain. Either way after 2000 all the teams are likely to go their own way.

Controlling Manchester United will also let Mr Murdoch steer British football into a future that suits him, particularly his investment in 200 digital channels. It would also help if any outside media group tries

to outbid him for Premiership television rights if the contract survives to be renewed at the start of the new millennium.

The model for what he is doing already exists. The drive for a European super-league is being led by Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian television mogul and owner of AC Milan. Critics of the super-league plan believe it was prompted by Milan failing to qualify for any lucrative European tournaments this year. Mr Berlusconi wants a new type of tournament to ensure big teams always have an opportunity to play in big games, which will attract viewers. A Murdoch-owned Manchester United is likely to be even more keen on such a proposal.

The other model is his American businesses. The purchase of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team early in 1998 gave him an emotive name - of the heirs of the never-to-be-forgotten Brooklyn Dodgers - and a franchise that sits astride the richest media market in the US. But he paid only \$350m (£210m), against the £575m he is said to be offering for Manchester United.

Nor do the Dodgers dominate baseball; other media groups have long since owned clubs, and sometimes more successful ones. Ted Turner of CNN owns the Atlanta Braves, the dominant team of the 1990s. Disney/ABC recently bought the Anaheim Angels and the Chicago Cubs are part of

the Chicago Tribune group. The story is the same in basketball. Mr Murdoch owns the LA Lakers and the New York Knicks, in the largest and second largest US media markets. But neither has recently been a major force in the game, both being eclipsed by Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls.

All, however, are part of Mr Murdoch's declared strategy of using sport as a "battering ram" to attract a bigger market for News Corporation's global TV operations.

Chase Carey, chairman of Fox Television, gave an explanation for the purchase of the Dodgers that will sound familiar to Manchester fans: "We were not interested in just any sports franchise. The Dodgers

are in many ways one of the most unique and valuable franchises in all sports. That comes from their location, their history and their following."

Opposition to the deal is likely to come from other teams, which will resent having Mr Murdoch as both a buyer and a seller of television rights. However, in the US only two teams voted against Mr Murdoch's purchase of the Dodgers and in the UK other Premiership teams have no veto on the ownership of their rivals.

Fans concerned about the commercial drift of the game have cause for worry. BSkyB's dominance of sports television has let it systematically increase subscription charges. Premiership chairman this

year rejected BSkyB's proposals for making some games pay per view next season, but as both club owner and owner of broadcast rights, Mr Murdoch could push the league harder to exploit the new technology.

Further opposition may be regulatory. Tony Banks, sports minister, hinted at a Monopolies Commission referral when he said yesterday: "I can't see this just sailing straight through."

The Government will be stuck with its usual dilemma over Mr Murdoch. Popular opinion and backbench left-wingers will oppose the deal, but the Government will not wish to have Mr Murdoch's newspapers turn against it if it refers the acquisition to the competition authorities.

## THE WILL TO WIN

February 1989

Sky Television launches 4-channel service in UK after six years as a loss-making pan-European satellite and cable service. One of its first deals, the following year, is to England's cricket tour to West Indies.

November 1990

Sky Television merges with smaller rival British Satellite Broadcasting to form British Sky Broadcasting. Murdoch's News International owns 40 per cent of the merged company which gives it effective control of the business. After amalgamation, the combined operation is losing £10m a week.

July 1992

BSkyB clinches five-year rights to live coverage of Premier League football matches in £304m deal. The previous contract cost ITV just £44m for four years. The terms of the deal mean moving more games to Sunday and matches to Mondays for the first time.

April 1995

BSkyB secures TV rights to best British boxers - including Frank Bruno, Nigel Benn and Prince Naseem Hamed - for £50m.

Murdoch creates rugby league Super League in £77m deal, that includes some rule changes, new team names and, most radically, the teams are forced to move their playing season from winter to summer in order to coincide with the Australian Rugby League season.

September 1995

£20m golf package secures tournaments including 1997 and 1999 Ryder cups.

March 1996

In Britain's first ever pay-per-view event BSkyB screens a boxing bout. Many had predicted the experiment would be a failure but 600,000 homes pay around £10 to see between Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson fight in the United States at 4am. Five million homes in the UK now have Sky.

June 1996

BSkyB strikes £87.5m deal with English Rugby Union to show England's club games and internationals. England is threatened with expulsion from Five Nations' tournament until a compromise deal is struck with the other four national unions.

Premier League football rights extended for four years in a £670m deal. BSkyB wins the deal despite competition from M&A and a joint bid by Mirror Group and Carlton Communications.

August 1998

Manchester United launches its own daily television channel in the first move of its kind in the world by a football club. MUTV, which will go on air this week, is a joint venture between the club, BSkyB and the Granada Media Group. It will broadcast first on Sky digital and on digital terrestrial television as it becomes available. Later that month plans for a European Super League, driven by former Italian Prime Minister and media mogul Silvio Berlusconi, are revealed.



## Cash bonanza for United's shareholders

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE MANCHESTER United chief executive, Martin Edwards, is likely to net more than £80m from the sale of his 14 per cent stake in the club to Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, while about 13,000 small shareholders, mostly fans, could share in a £126m windfall.

City analysts expect Mr Edwards, the man who steered Manchester United to a £47m stock market flotation in July 1991, to sell his stake and leave the club if BSkyB assumes control. The Manchester United chief executive, who just 10 years ago failed to sell the club for £20m, has said repeatedly that he would consider selling the club if the right offer came along.

More uncertain is the fate of about 22 per cent of the company, which is in the hands of a number of small shareholders. City analysts were yesterday predicting that at least some of them will sell to BSkyB, taking advantage of a very lucrative offer.

BSkyB is expected to offer up to 225p for every Man Utd share, valuing the club at £575m, a premium of more than 38 per cent on Friday's closing price of 159p. The club has had a fantastic run since joining the stock market at around 17.5p per share.

However, financial experts said that the price looked high for a company that last year had a turnover of just £87.9m and profits of £27.5m. However, they added that the potential to de-

velop the United brand and merchandise was immense.

They pointed out that merchandising income, which accounts for just over 30 per cent of sales, is forecast to rise at breakneck pace in the coming years.

Others pointed out that buying the biggest club in Britain will give Mr Murdoch an edge in negotiations over football broadcasting rights. "It's a pre-emptive move by Mr Murdoch. It will give him immense leverage when it comes to renegotiating the TV rights for Premiership football."

However, the analyst warned that the ownership of one team could alienate other clubs.

"So far, media companies have refrained from buying football clubs because people thought that if you did a deal with one club you would upset all the others."

Some experts said that the takeover could provide a boost to football shares when the market opens today. Most clubs have had a rough ride since joining the stock market as investors took fright at the wild swings in clubs' fortunes.

Newcastle shares were valued at 135p when the club floated and they now languish at 62p. Tottenham, which led the sport to the stock market in 1990, has slid from 138p per share to just 60p last week.

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# Gaddafi rejects Lockerbie trial deal

**THE DEAL** to try the Lockerbie bombing suspects in a neutral country was rejected yesterday by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

In a speech marking the 29th anniversary of the coup that brought him to power, Col Gaddafi refused to accept the deal brokered through the United Nations without guarantees of the safety of the two men.

He accused Britain and United States of making the

BY LOUISE JURY

proposed neutral country, the Netherlands, a "transit point" for transferring the accused to Britain. The Libyan leader said he could accept an agreement only if Holland was "the last stop" for the men - Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah - whether found guilty or innocent.

"We are prepared to go tomorrow to the Netherlands, provided that the Netherlands

is the last stop in case of acquittal or conviction... guarantees to that effect are necessary," he said.

But Professor Robert Black, the legal expert who first proposed trial in a neutral country, expressed surprise at the new objections raised by Col Gaddafi.

Professor Black suggested in January 1994 that such a deal could break the deadlocked negotiations over a prosecution, and he and Dr Jim Swire, whose daughter

died in the bombing, held talks with the Libyans. The professor said yesterday that Col Gaddafi had always known that the men would serve their sentence in Scotland, if convicted. "I suspect that this is a negotiating tactic. One of the things you do in negotiations is you start from a position you don't ultimately expect to maintain," he said.

The British and American governments, who opposed the idea for many years, last month suggested the men

should be tried in the Netherlands by a panel of Scottish judges under Scottish law. The idea was backed by a United Nations Security Council resolution.

Professor Black said it was the composition of the panel of judges that was the sticking point, not where any sentence might be served.

"What the Libyans had agreed to was an international panel chaired by a Scottish judge. This issue is the major issue," he said.

Alistair Duff, the Scottish lawyer who is representing the accused, said the colonel's speech highlighted legitimate concerns from Libya about aspects of the agreement.

"It sounds to me as if what he is saying is that in principle the idea of a trial in The Hague is not unacceptable, but there needs to be clear guarantees and assurances about the risk of extradition - passing the two on to some other country once they are in The Hague.

"What he is probably saying is that more specific clear guarantees need to be there," he said.

Mr Duff travels to Libya this week and expects that the men will decide whether they accept the deal.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the offer was made through the United Nations, and the British Government could not negotiate on it.

The spokesman made clear that, if acquitted, the men could return to Libya in safety.

As United Nations resolutions apply to countries, not individuals, the British Government believes the final decision rests with the Libyan leader, not the suspects.

Mr Swire, a spokesman for relatives of British victims, said the men must serve their sentences in Britain, if convicted.

"I think what Colonel Gaddafi is hinting at here is that he doesn't like the idea of his citizens being imprisoned in Scotland."



Kurosawa, in trademark dark glasses, at work on the production of 'The Bodyguard' in 1961

## Kurosawa, samurai of world cinema, dies at 88

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

HE WAS the highest name in Japanese cinema. But as the tributes following the death of Akira Kurosawa yesterday showed, his influence on Western culture was also significant.

Actors and directors were joined by the French president Jacques Chirac in honouring the 88-year-old Kurosawa, whose innovative work inspired the classic western *The Magnificent Seven* and helped the Hollywood directors Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. Spielberg called him "the pictorial Shakespeare of our time".

A film director for over 50 years, Kurosawa was known as the emperor of Japanese cinema. He was best known for *Rashomon* and his 1954 movie *The Seven Samurai*, about villagers terrorised by a gang of bandits who hire seven sword fighters for protection. It won widespread acclaim and became the model for Hollywood's *The Magnificent Seven*, starring Yul Brynner and Steve McQueen.

The only director to have won two Oscars for best foreign film, Kurosawa, rarely seen without his trademark sunglasses and beret, received a lifetime achievement award in 1990 from the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, but said he had not yet earned it. "What I



A scene from 'The Seven Samurai', one of Kurosawa's greatest triumphs

promise you is that from now on I will work as hard as I can at making movies, and maybe by following this path I will receive an understanding of the true essence of cinema and earn this award," he said.

President Chirac, a lover of Japanese culture, said the filmmaker's work represented "milestones in the history of international cinema. Kurosawa was enthralled by modern Japan but familiar with its epic poetry. He knew how to denounce injustice, and praise self-sacrifice".

Kurosawa was known as "The Emperor" for his perfectionism and extravagance. The perfectionism could manifest itself in bizarre ways. In the late 1960s, he became the centre of controversy when he joined the American producer Elmo Williams to work on *Tora, Tora, Tora*, about the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

He left when the film was only half complete after a row over different approaches to it. Kurosawa had insisted that actors salute, even when off-camera, the actor playing Admiral Yamamoto, to gain a feel of what it was like to live under a militarist government.

Critics have found his innovative style - celebrated for its elaborate detail and sweeping camera movements - influencing foreign films from George Lucas's *Star Wars* to Brian De Palma's *Scarface*. "He had a god-like vision that translated well to American movies," said Naoko Kimura, a film critic in Tokyo.

At the age of 61, Kurosawa attempted suicide by slashing his wrist after the company that produced *Rashomon* went bankrupt, reflecting the decline of the Japanese film industry from its heyday in the late 1950s.

Obituary, Review, page 6

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**BY STEVE BOGGAN**

**LLM, THE SELF-STYLED 'ETHICAL' LOBBYISTS**



### Neal Lawson, 35

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**The Cherryades**  
These are political. They are assistants to Cherie Booth, the Prime Minister's wife. *The Daily Telegraph* has described them as "red, sweet and fizzing with ideas".



**Having a David Mellor**  
A French term, believe it or not, which was known to be in use in Paris circa 1992, meaning "a bad haircut". It was undoubtedly accurate, albeit the least of his many problems.



**Doing a Gordon Brown**  
To dress down, particularly at a black-tie event when any exception to the dress code will be seen as making a point. From the Chancellor who wore a lounge suit to speak at Mansion House in the City.



**A bit of a Dibble**  
An immortality that could not have been predicted. Meaning a brush with the Law, and defined as being part of a hip new BritSpeak, "Dibble" derives from Officer Dibble in Top Cat cartoons.



**Performing a Follett**  
Another New Labour word. It means to massage the image of an outmoded institution so that it becomes electable. After Barbara Follett, the party's image consultant.



**To Gummerise**  
To couch an issue in irredeemably right-eous tones, designed to expose the speaker's supposed moral superiority. Bears some connection to John Gummer, the homily-friendly former Tory minister.

# A phrasebook for a tour of New Britain

ONE THING to be said for the Nineties is that companies don't sack staff anymore. They "decrut", "downsize", "right-size", "de-job" or "de-layer". These euphemistic redundancies might take place after a morning's "blamestorming" - debating who is to blame for a workplace fiasco.

If the employee won't leave quietly, then send for the "head-shunter" - the reverse of a head-hunter, whose role is to get you to leave the company without the costs of redundancy.

Neologisms (new words) are said to be the most acute barometer of the course our culture is taking. And a new book to be published later this month shows how the Nineties have given the language an armoury of neologisms - be they genuine attempts to define new cultural phenomena, or outlandish euphemisms dictated by political correctness or marketing agendas.

Marital status has its own Nineties labelling, as you will know if you are a "sinbad" (single income, no boyfriend, absolutely desperate) or even a "sitcom" (single income, two children and an oppressive mortgage).

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

But some of the most graphic additions to the language come in the arena of sex and sexual politics.

On the disco floor one now apparently "binrakes" at the end of the evening. This means "to trawl around the dance floor in a last-minute bid to attract even the least desirable partner." The book adds that this is "particularly popular in Edinburgh," which is hardly complimentary to the young men and women of that city.

Down south, one may not "binrake", but one does "down-date", which amounts to much the same thing, meaning "to seek a partner below one's expectations."

Lesbians have been on a linguistic journey in the Nineties - from the glamorous and chic "Tiptick lesbian" to the "log" (lesbian until graduation) to "lesbeing" (actively living the role), ending up with the vividly descriptive "hasbian" (a former lesbian who is now in a heterosexual relationship, as defined in *Psychology Today*).

A Glossary for the 90s, to be published by Pion, consists of words, all of which have been recorded in public use, whether in newspaper and magazine articles, or uttered by broadcasters and politicians.

Others emerged from academic journals and billboard advertisements; specialist groups such as skateboarders and rap DJs; or were simply overheard by the book's author, the journalist David Rowan.

He said: "Some new words, already, have become so indispensable to modern life that it is hard to imagine how we coped without them. Was there really life before office workers had to 'hot desk' and newspapers worried about 'dumbing down'?"

"At the same time, various subcultures are busy inventing their own words, often to stay ahead of mainstream society. Skateboarders, for instance, talk about 'bongos' and 'swell-bows' so that only the initiated know they are referring to injuries."

"Professional groups also invent new terms to stay ahead of the pack. Doctors might talk about difficult patients as 'Gomers' (short for Get out of my Emergency Room), or chat about treating a woman patient with a 'Tube' (totally unnecessary breast examination) - and all they are doing is reinforcing their group identity with terms designed to keep outsiders ignorant."

Many of the additions to the language are words that can be used to avoid saying what you mean, such as the Ambient Replenishment Opportunity advertised at Safeway in Stockport - a shelf-stacking job.

And in America, used goods for sale are either "experienced", or the even happier-sounding "pre-enjoyed".

## 'Serious decline' in school standards

EVIDENCE OF a dramatic decline in education standards was claimed today on the basis of test results for English schoolchildren.

The report for the Centre-right Social Market Foundation, by the academic John Marks, analysed test results at ages seven, 11 and 14. It contrasted performance with the levels expected of an average child at each age, and calculated the spread of children's "educational" age compared to their chronological years.


At age seven, Mr Marks concluded, children were on average slightly ahead of national expectations. But at age 11 they were about a year behind, and at age 14, the average child was two years behind expected standards.

Commenting on the results of his analysis, Mr Marks, formerly a member of the Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority - now the Qualifications and Curriculum Agency - said: "It has taken over a decade for data for individual schools derived from national curriculum tests to become available at ages seven, 11 and 14."

"Given the disastrous national situation that this data has now revealed, it is perhaps not surprising that so many teachers' organisations and others were so reluctant to agree to tests taking place at all."

The conclusions of the research were disputed, however, by Ted Wragg, professor of

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— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 —

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# Unions seek action to beat recession

THE PRIME Minister will today be urged to intervene in an attempt to prevent manufacturing industry dragging Britain into a full-blown recession.

Leaders of the country's biggest unions want more input into economic decision-making and will urge Tony Blair to listen more closely to employers.

The demands come as David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, admitted that the growing world economic crisis could cause problems for the Gov-

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

ernment's flagship welfare-to-work programme.

He told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*: "Welfare-to-work has a bigger challenge as the economy tightens." The project would be "more difficult" in the present climate.

A senior union delegation to 10 Downing Street today was scheduled to discuss next week's TUC Congress, but the session will now centre on the

economic situation amid mounting redundancies.

Last Friday Fujitsu, the Japanese company, announced the closure of its electronics factory in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency, with the loss of more than 600 jobs. It came on top of the closure of the Siemens semi-conductor plant in Tyneside, with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

And yesterday it emerged that another 900 jobs could be lost in the region if the Vickers tank factory in Newcastle does

not win a £1bn order for Challenger 2 tanks from Greece.

Doug Henderson, the Defence minister and MP for Newcastle North, said he would throw his weight behind the bid.

Roger Lyons, leader of the white collar and technical union MSF, will call for a special task force made up of ministers, employers and unions, which would help to co-ordinate policy towards manufacturing.

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union,

will urge Mr Blair to work in partnership with both sides of industry in developing an overall economic strategy.

Mr Jackson said the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, which meets on Wednesday, had "one last chance" to show that it was concerned about industry by cutting interest rates.

He added that the Treasury now needed to show, for the first time since the Second World War, that it accepted that industry mattered to Britain.

"Manufacturing is heading for meltdown. We agree that there must be no return to boom and bust, but the problem facing manufacturing is so acute that action must be taken now. Social partnership is the only government. Unions and employers can solve the huge problems we face."

Senior AEEU officials are angry not only about the attitude of members of the monetary policy committee, but also the degree to which ministers dismiss anxiety about the "real

economy". Mr Jackson said: "The Bank of England seems to live in an ivory tower afraid to enter the real world of manufacturing. I would also urge the Government to involve unions in finding solutions to the problems facing the economy."

Mr Lyons's proposed task force echoes the old tripartite approach of governments in the 1970s. He said the group should cover inward investment, regional development and training in an attempt to achieve a co-ordinated approach.

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC who will lead the delegation today to Downing Street, believes the interest rate-setting committee should be changed to include a representative from industry. "I would like to see somebody with oil under their fingernails in a position to advise on such a key economic instrument."

It is clear that the looming recession will dominate proceedings at next week's TUC conference and the Labour Party conference in October.

## Pilot's last words give clue to cause of Swissair crash

THE AIRCRAFT that crashed into the sea off Canada's coast last week, killing 229 people, seems to have suffered a catastrophic loss of power, suggesting that an electrical failure was the cause of its problems.

New clues to the crash of the Swissair jet off the coast of Nova Scotia emerged with the release of tapes of conversations between the pilot and air-traffic control. The tapes end six minutes before the crash, however, leaving a mystery over the final agony.

The pilot, Captain Urs Zimmermann, 50, radioed Moncton air-traffic control in New Brunswick at 10.14pm local time that he was in trouble, the tapes show. He said: "Swissair one-eleven (flight 111) is declaring Pan Pan Pan (the phrase used to indicate emergency). We have smoke in the cockpit."

The pilot suggested returning to Boston, but air-traffic control told him Halifax was much closer and steered him towards the runway. He approached and then turned to lose altitude, since the airport was too close to allow him to descend safely in time, and to dump fuel over the sea to reduce his weight. All this suggests that even though the pilot's position was difficult, he still believed he had some time.

Minutes later, things took a turn for the worse. "We are declaring an emergency at time zero one two four," the pilot said at 10.24pm. "We are starting vent now," he added. It is thought this refers to dumping fuel. "We have to land immediately."

At this time the aircraft was flying south-south east, away from the airport, out to sea. During the last few moments the pilot's words were hard to

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Halifax, Nova Scotia

make out, apparently because he was wearing a smoke mask, Vic Gerden, the chief investigator, said.

There was no further conversation between air-traffic control and the aircraft, apparently because its radio was no longer working. Air-traffic control tracked it by radar. The air-



Capt Urs Zimmermann: Declared an emergency

craft continued on its course and then turned sharp right. It continued to loop, making a turn of 360 degrees, before crashing into the sea. Its final movements suggest the pilot had lost control.

There had been previous wiring problems with MD-11s, but Swissair had corrected them, a spokesman said. It seems to have been a wiring problem that led to the explosion of TWA 800 over the Atlantic near Long Island two years ago.

One serious question that has been raised is whether the aircraft could have landed at Halifax had it not tried to lose

altitude and fuel on a loop out to sea. Although it exceeded the manufacturer's guideline weight for landing, it might have been successful - but it could have crashed nearer to Halifax, perhaps claiming more lives on the ground.

DNA testing continued on the human remains that have been found, and one body was identified as that of a French woman. But the medical team will take weeks, even months, to identify other victims, and some may never be identified.

It was reported yesterday that four more Britons were on board the flight than was originally thought. Norman Depledge, his wife Caroline, their son Michael and daughter Jane, 28, were flying to Switzerland for a climbing holiday. The family, which moved to the United States in the Seventies, brings the number of British victims to 11.

The searchers have found signals from one of the aircraft's flight recorders, but divers were unable to locate it. They were expected to try again yesterday. The cockpit voice recorder or the flight data recorder could help to fill in the missing minutes, if they were working.

Sonar searches have located a large cylindrical object, which could be the remains of the fuselage.

Relatives and friends of the victims attended services of memorial over the weekend, still heavily protected by Swissair and local police. Swissair has apparently spared no expense to make sure that the families are looked after, in sharp contrast to TWA, which was accused of acting insensitively by many at the time of the 1996 crash.



Screaming Lord Sutch: Dubious honour of Worst Album secures a place in rock history for the founder of the Monster Raving Loony Party

## Elvis and Dire Straits top list of the sounds that should have been silent

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

THEY ARE among the greatest icons of 40 years of rock and pop music, and tomorrow Dire Straits, Elvis Presley and Lou Reed will be celebrated in a definitive list of top albums.

Unfortunately, there is a snag. They figure in a list of the worst and most overrated albums of all time.

A survey of 200,000 people to discover history's top 1,000 albums found, not surprisingly, that *The Beatles* took four of the first five places.

The greater surprise was to be found in two offshoots of the survey - the worst and most overrated albums. Elvis Presley's live album, *Having Fun With Elvis On Stage*, and Lou Reed's *Metal Machine Music* featured in the worst album section, won by rock'n'roller turned political leader of the Raving Monster Loony Party, Screaming Lord Sutch.

Dire Straits' *Brothers In Arms*, which is likely to feature in the collections of most over-35s, and equally likely not to have been played for years, has the unenviable distinction of being voted most overrated album. An-



Runners-up for the uncoveted award (from left): Lou Reed, Elvis Presley, William Shatner and Todd Rundgren

other staple of the baby-boomers' collection, Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours*, is runner-up.

In the main survey, to be published as a book by Virgin, *Revolver*, which was released in 1966, *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967), *The White Album* (1968) and *Abbey Road* (1969) take first, second, third and fifth places respectively. The Beatles also top a separate list of the Top 50 Artists Of All Time, followed by Bob Dylan and Pink Floyd.

The poll also reveals that the

1970s, now considered as back in vogue for fashion and music, is rock's golden age, with almost a third of all albums coming from that decade.

The value of such surveys was questioned yesterday by the country's leading academic expert on rock and pop music, Simon Frith, professor of English studies at Strathclyde University and chairman of the Mercury Music Prize, said: "Like the pop sales charts, the thousand best albums list becomes more meaningless

as you descend into its depths."

Professor Frith said that if you go into the street, stop people at random and ask them to name their top 20 albums of all time, this is what you will find: "Most people will get to seven or eight and then say they have to go home to look at their record collections."

"The younger person will list records they've bought most recently. The older will pick a record they neither own nor expect to listen to ever again. The sample will always

include a small number of rock connoisseurs, who will have a list in their pockets, which will include a record by Captain Beefheart or Nick Drake."

"Everyone over 29 will name a Beatles album, but it will be chosen at random."

Professor Frith added that in the survey, rock is split from pop, so that acts such as The Who and The Kinks are pushed down into the hundreds, while The Beatles remain too complicatedly a pop and rock group to be pigeonholed.

### MUSIC'S HALL OF FAME AND SHAME

#### Top 10 Albums

1. Revolver - The Beatles
2. Sgt Pepper - The Beatles
3. The White Album - The Beatles
4. Nevermind - Nirvana
5. Abbey Road - The Beatles
6. Pet Sounds - The Beach Boys
7. Automatic for the People - R.E.M.
8. The Dark Side of the Moon - Pink Floyd
9. What's the Story (Morning Glory) - Oasis
10. The Bends - Radiohead

#### Top 10 Artists

1. The Beatles
2. Bob Dylan
3. Pink Floyd
4. Oasis
5. David Bowie
6. R.E.M.

#### 7. U2

8. Radiohead
9. Rolling Stones
10. Nirvana

#### Top 5 Soul/R&B Albums

1. What's Going On - Marvin Gaye
2. Thriller - Michael Jackson
3. Songs In The Key of Life - Stevie Wonder
4. Ods Blue - Otis Redding
5. Bad - Michael Jackson

#### Top 5 Indie/Punk Albums

1. What's the Story (Morning Glory) - Oasis
2. The Bends - Radiohead
3. Never Mind the Bollocks - The Sex Pistols
4. The Stone Roses - Stone Roses
5. OK Computer - Radiohead

#### Top 5 Most Overrated

1. Brothers In Arms - Dire Straits
2. Rumours - Fleetwood Mac
3. Hotel California - Eagles
4. Bat out of Hell - Meat Loaf
5. Bridge over Troubled Water - Simon & Garfunkel

#### Top 5 Worst Albums

1. Lord Sutch and His Heavy Friends - Screaming Lord Sutch
2. Metal Machine Music - Lou Reed
3. Having Fun with Elvis on Stage - Elvis Presley
4. The Transformed Man - William Shatner
5. Initiation - Todd Rundgren

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# Blair to reject election of king

TONY BLAIR will reject the "big bang" reform of the monarchy proposed by a leading think-tank yesterday, but will impose a financial squeeze on the Royal Family by making it less dependent on taxpayers' money.

Senior ministers dismissed calls by Demos, an independent think-tank with close links to Labour, for the monarchy to be stripped of its political powers such as choosing a prime minister, dissolving Parliament and giving the Royal Assent to legislation, which the report says should be transferred to the Speaker of the Commons.

The most radical suggestion by Demos is that the Prince of Wales should have to be confirmed as the next King in a referendum before he succeeds his mother. If he were rejected and the public also voted No to Prince William, then Parliament might have to draw up plans for a republic.

One cabinet source poured scorn on the referendum proposal, saying its prospects were "less than zero". Downing Street said: "The report has nothing to do with the Government and doesn't reflect government views."

Mr Blair has no intention of bringing in a wide-ranging Monarchy Act suggested by Demos. Ministers say any reforms will be piecemeal and driven largely by the Royal Family. However, the Prime Minister will have to confront several potentially sensitive issues addressed in the report, "Modernising the Monarchy".

A 10-year deal on the civil list

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

expires in 2001, and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, looks certain to impose a much less generous financial settlement than the royals won under John Major. Their annual 7.5 per cent increase will be cut to about 2.5 per cent, in line with the inflation target. "They won't get more than the nurses," said a government source.

The Demos report, by Tim Hames and Mark Leonard, said plans for constitutional reform would draw the Queen into party politics. She might receive conflicting advice from the Prime Minister and the Scottish First Minister. If proportional representation produced hung parliaments, she would have to nominate the Prime Minister.

Some Labour MPs want reform of the monarchy to be higher up the Government's agenda. "There is a widespread feeling on the Labour back benches, and it's probably true for some ministers, that you cannot be seen as a modernising Government and somehow have the monarchy exempted," said Rhodri Morgan, chairman of the Commons Public Administration Committee.

The Demos report said there was "a perfectly rational case" for abolition of the monarchy, but an overwhelmingly powerful argument against - a large majority wanted to keep it.

Buckingham Palace said the proposals were "a useful contribution to the on-going debate" but any reforms were a matter for Parliament.



Visitors tour Harewood House, near Leeds, which is the first stately home to win designated museum status

Peter Byrne/Guzelian

## The first stately museum of England

BY ESTHER LEACH

HAREWOOD HOUSE, home to the Seventh Earl of Harewood, a cousin of the Queen, will become the first stately home in Britain to win designated museum status tomorrow.

The announcement will be made by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, as a tribute to the unflinching good taste shown by successive generations of the Harewood family, who have maintained the home.

Harewood has been accorded designated museum status

by the Museums and Galleries Commission, recognising it as a centre of excellence and putting it in the premier league of museums in the country.

The house, built west of Leeds in 1759, was designed by John Carr and Robert Adam, is set in gardens created by Capability Brown and has always been a showhouse - attracting the gentry from Harrogate almost as soon as the building was finished. The family continues to live in the house, which is run by a charitable trust.

It contains one of the finest collections of Chippendale furniture, views of the house painted by Turner in 1797, family portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Italian Renaissance paintings and Sevres porcelain.

David Lascelles, son of the present earl, said his father had long resisted the title of museum, feeling it could be a "dead hand" in its ability to attract thousands of visitors every

year. But Emma Taylor, museums officer, said Harewood deserved to be the first to receive the accolade of museum as it has stood the test of time.

"Good taste is subjective but Harewood House has, for example, the finest example of Chippendale furniture. Good pieces have been collected consistently by different generations of the family," she said.

Harewood's principal curator, Jane Sellars, was careful to point out that the house is not "pickled in aspic".

Walking through the property's state rooms, which are open to the public, Ms Sellars said: "There was always something happening, always a reason to come back to Harewood."

The designation scheme aims to draw attention to non-national, pre-eminent museums collections in England, recognising the excellence of a collection and the institution that houses it. Harewood House becomes one of 45 designated museums overall.

## Decades of child abuse alleged

BY ROGER DOBSON

THOUSANDS OF children may have suffered abuse in Britain's care homes in the 1970s and 1980s, according to detectives.

Sample interviewing by police officers of former residents of homes has revealed that 7 per cent of those approached alleged some kind of abuse.

It is the first indication of the potential scale of the abuse, both physical and sexual, that went on for decades behind the closed doors of the residential care system.

Detective Superintendent John Robbins, who has led Merseyside's Operation Care for the past two years, said: "In those days you could be a big man one day and a care worker the next."

Although there have been a number of high-profile cases involving the abuse of children in care, including the pindown scandal in Staffordshire, the Beck affair in Leicestershire, and the ongoing North Wales abuse tribunal, there has never been any clue to the scale of the problem nationally. Each police force has carried out its own investigation and there has been no national co-ordination.

But more than 40 police forces have now been involved in investigations and some of them have tried tracing all ex-residents, or carried out sample trawls of former residents of homes in their area. The North Wales tribunal also carried out a random sampling inquiry and had similar results.

In Britain's biggest investigation, on Merseyside, where allegations of abuse have been made by former residents of 70 homes, Det Supt Robbins said yesterday: "Our latest figures show that 7 per cent of the people we sampled and we approached have alleged abuse. When I started this investigation two years ago I said... perhaps we should look at every care home on Merseyside. We are now reaching that stage."

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# Iranians and Afghans on war alert

THE RIVAL Islamic regimes of Iran and Afghanistan remained on the verge of open war last night as Taliban militias issued weapons to villagers in western Afghanistan to resist a possible attack from up to 40,000 Iranian troops deployed on the other side of the border dividing the countries.

Yesterday Iran's supreme leader and commander-in-chief of its armed forces, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was reported as assuring that Tehran would not launch hostilities against the Taliban regime, which after two years of civil war now controls the bulk of Afghanistan.

But there was no explaining why these remarks only ap-

peared in print three days after they were apparently made, and why so large an Iranian force, supported by 80 Soviet-built T-72 tanks, 90 heavy artillery pieces and dozens of strike aircraft had moved last week to the country's eastern frontier.

According to some analysts, the incongruity could be a sign of further splits within a divided Tehran regime, between a faction that believes it is pointless for Iran to be dragged into a conflict that it has no chance of winning than Britain,

the Soviet Union and every other outsider who has previously tried to tame Afghanistan, and hardliners who believe they have a chance to undermine Taliban with a stinging military defeat.

From the Afghan side, a Taliban spokesman warned that any incursion would be responded to in kind. Any war "would have a domino effect", declared Noorullah Zadran, the movement's New York spokesman. It would "turn the entire region into a fireball", and involve "the most deadly weapons which have never been used in that area".

The immediate cause of confrontation is the fate of 11 Iran-



ian diplomats who vanished when Taliban fighters captured the strategic northern city of Mazar-e Sharif last month and, according to Amnesty In-

ternational, massacred thousands of people in the area. Last week, five Iranian truck drivers seized at Mazar were released and returned home.

But until yesterday, no amount of pressure has been able to extract word from the Afghan side on what befell the diplomats and a score of other missing Iranian nationals. Unofficially, some Taliban officials admit these could have been killed by "renegades" within the movement's ranks.

But no less a motivation for Tehran is its intense dislike and jealousy - partly for political and partly for religious reasons - of the Taliban regime, whose zone of control has now almost reached the frontier. Shia Iran is anxious to protect remaining Shia Muslims in those pockets of Afghanistan that have still not been brought to heel by the Tal-

iban, who are Sunni Muslims. Iran has also been among the staunchest supporters of Afghanistan's former president Burhamuddin Rabbani, deposed in 1996, but still regarded as the country's legitimate ruler by the United Nations.

The Taliban government, recognised only by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, accuses Iran of fomenting Afghan opposition groups who have taken refuge there.

Iran is not the only country watching very closely how events unfold. Following in the footsteps of several other senior opposition figures, Mr Rabbani arrived yesterday in Ankara to

meet President Suleiman Demirel of Turkey, a country that has strong ethnic and linguistic links with Afghanistan's Uzbek minority, still resisting the Taliban in the mountainous heart of the country.

Last, but not least, of the interested spectators is the United States. The latest tensions were first revealed by American intelligence analysts, who are monitoring events in the region especially closely after the missile attack on 20 August, on the headquarters in south-eastern Afghanistan of Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of last month's terrorist attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

## Buddy leaps for joy, but Starr takes aim

THE PRESIDENCY of Bill Clinton, already in the early stages of disintegration, could begin finally to unravel this week as the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr prepares at last to release his report into allegations of sexual misconduct in the White House and obstruction of justice in the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Legal sources disclosed yesterday that the report is all but complete, and that it could be submitted to Congress before the end of this week.

If its contents prove as damaging to the President as many believe, it could trigger the worst constitutional crisis since the Watergate affair. Few now doubt the report will carry a grievous punch. The sex acts between Ms Lewinsky - the details of which she, presumably, supplied to Mr Starr herself - are likely to be described.

Most expect there to be more allegations of criminal misconduct by the President, such as perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power.

Richard Nixon was facing only one article of impeachment - obstruction of justice - when he was persuaded to resign from office.

On television yesterday, Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan said proof of perjury alone would not warrant impeachment. Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House, will this week urge that at least a summary of the report be released to the public without delay. He wants it published on the Internet.

"There is a crisis of the regime," Mr Moynihan said. He urged Mr Starr to release the report as fast as possible and said Congress, due to disband on 9 October until next year, must remain in session until the Lewinsky matter is resolved. "This is a distraction that is doubly dangerous because of what is happening in the rest of the world," he said.

The political landscape has been in convulsion in Washington since last Thursday when Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut took to the Senate floor to brand the Pres-

ident's conduct in the Lewinsky affair "immoral and disgraceful". He said it deserved a "formal rebuke".

Since then, Democrats around the country have rushed to distance themselves from the tarnished President. Few called outright for the President to stand down, but remarks such as these from Jeff Woodburn, chairman of the party in New Hampshire, were typical: "You can't be blindly loyal."

The concern is that the scandal will hurt all Democratic candidates in November, if only by depressing turnout among traditional supporters.

"Clinton knows what's going to be in the [Starr] report, we don't," said Pauline Woods of the Democratic National Committee. "If it's something that will hurt every candidate, he needs to step down. If not, he needs to stay and fight."

A censure of the President by Congress now looks unavoidable - a humiliation only one other President, Andrew Jackson, has suffered. Few in Washington now dare to bet that much worse can be avoided - that is, impeachment.

Mr Clinton has few options left. Aides hint that he may attempt one more effort at penitence, when religious and Congressional leaders gather in the White House on Friday for a prayer breakfast. The President said he was "sorry" for his affair with Lewinsky for the first time last Friday in Dublin.

In the hothouse of Washington - and not since Watergate has the fever been so high - it is easy to forget that polls taken after his admission to his affair with Ms Lewinsky have continued to show resilience in the President's approval ratings.

If the numbers stay good, Mr Clinton could remain insulated. If the ratings crumble - and signs of a souring of the domestic economy will not help - the President will have problems that even he, the "Comeback Kid", may not be able to overcome.



President Bill Clinton greeted by his dog Buddy at the White House after his six-day trip to Russia, Ulster and Ireland

Chris Kleponis

## Harlem march ends in violence

BY DAVID USBORNE

CONTROVERSY RAGED yesterday over Saturday's so-called Million Youth March in Harlem, New York. Labeled in advance by city officials as an anti-white hate rally, the event attracted fewer than 10,000 but ended in clashes with police that left 22 injured.

New York's mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, who failed to have the march banned, indicated that charges of incitement to riot might be brought against its organisers, Khalid Abdul Muhammad, who is known for his poisonous rhetoric against whites and Jews. Just when the march was meant to disperse on the orders of the courts, he abused the police from a microphone on the main stage and told participants to "beat the hell out of them with the railing if they so much as touch you".

He continued: "If anyone attacks you, take their goddamn guns and use them. You take their nightsticks away ... and ram it up their behinds. If you attack us today, by the power of God, we'll mop the goddamn streets with you."

There was some criticism that by deploying 3,000 officers Mayor Giuliani had overreacted to an event regarded by at least some who attended as a rare opportunity for young blacks to voice unity. With helicopters swooping low overhead, the police mounted a veritable military operation to close it down at 4pm. Among those hurt in several clashes were five police officers.

"It was Gestapo-like tactics," Norman Siegel of the New York Civil Liberties Union said. Of the swarm of blue, he added: "Look at them! It confirms the community's worst fears about the police." One of those attending put it another way: "It's not the Million Youth March, it's the Million Cop March."

## Russia's regions start to rebel as Kremlin's grip weakens

AS RUSSIA'S political leaders meet today for another attempt to strike a deal in the dispute over President Boris Yeltsin's chosen prime minister, evidence is growing that the Kremlin's grip over the country is weakening.

A car bomb at the weekend in the southern republic of Dagestan, an Islamic republic that borders Chechnya, killed 16 and injured 80. It has deepened concern that Moscow is no longer able to impose its will across the land. The blast, described by Mr Yeltsin as "an attempt to tear apart the unity of the Russian Federation", was a reminder of the fragility of the relationship binding Moscow to Russia's regions, which has been placed under acute strain by the economic collapse.

Evidence that some of the 89 republics, regions and territo-

ries are using the chaos to seize more power has been mounting since the crisis began last month. The upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, made up of regional leaders, last week symbolically voted to support the acting prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who faces a second vote over his job in the Duma today.

But what they say in Moscow and do back home differs. The most stunning example is the decision of the Yakutia republic, in the Far East, to place its gold production under the control of local authorities and limit sales to the federal government and banks. But there are others: the governor of Khabarovsk in Siberia is the

brother and neighbour of General Alexander Lebed. Comparing Mr Yeltsin to "Genghis Khan and Hitler", Gen Lebed has announced his region will no longer transfer any funds to Moscow. The general himself has imposed a price freeze in his region of Krasnoyarsk, banning increases of more than 10 per cent.

The governor of the Kuzbass, the Siberian region that produces half Russia's coal, is threatening Moscow that miners will block rail lines across his turf if federal authorities fail to pay five months of back-pay. One governor, in Saratov, has mentioned introducing his own currency.

Under the cover of the crisis, Tatarstan, a republic on the Volga River, has tried to protect local producers by slapping a 10 per cent import tax on flour

from outside its borders, violating a federal constitutional clause defining Russia as one market. And in Voronezh, in the Red Belt part of southern Russia, city authorities have been seizing control of semi-privatised enterprises, such as the pharmacies, and returning them to government control. Moscow's sway in the regions has always varied from strong to tenuous, but it was weakened last year when Mr Yeltsin lost the power to appoint governors, who are now all elected.

Moscow often seems willing to let them go their own way, no matter how much corruption and illegality abounds, so long as they pay taxes. Now, however, they are in danger of becoming even more remote, and even more cavalier about the constitution and distant hand of federal power.

## Robinson to tackle Chinese on human rights abuses

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

ZHAO CHANGQING, a teacher at a factory school in Shaanxi province, tried to run in a local election last year. As a result, Mr Zhao, who took part in the 1989 pro-democracy movement, was arrested in March and accused of endangering state security.

This weekend it emerged that he had been sentenced to prison by Shaanxi's Hanzhong District Intermediate Court. The court refused to tell his relatives the length of the sentence, when it had been handed down or even the crime of which he had been convicted.

These are the routine human rights abuses that China's dissidents hope Mary Robinson will raise on the first visit to Peking by a United Nations Human Rights Commissioner.

Mrs Robinson's nine-day visit, which started yesterday, will have to chart a difficult course between taking a tough line over human rights violations and averting a serious rift with her sensitive hosts. During her first year in the post, Mrs Robinson's outspokenness has already caused ructions with governments in Cambodia, Rwanda, Algeria and Iran. The China trip is



Robinson: outspoken

seen as her toughest test in a job in which some critics have complained that the former Irish president has failed to live up to expectations.

Her hosts will keep her on a tight leash, and it is still unclear whether she will risk an attempt to meet mainland dissidents, 56 of whom last week signed a petition asking for a chance to talk to her.

The visit includes two days in Tibet, where religious and political repression is severe, and meetings with China's leaders, lawmakers, women's groups and "representatives of civil society". High on the agenda is the promised signing by China of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is meant to guarantee individ-

ual liberties, and a timetable for ratifying the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

China agreed to Mrs Robinson's visit only after the European Union earlier this year abandoned a motion of censure against China at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Western politicians who argued against confrontation with China pointed to the UN visit as proof that "engagement" was worthwhile, but this puts pressure on Mrs Robinson to make the trip more than simply symbolic.

China's rights campaigners want to see concrete results on the systematic abuses in the country. A petition signed by more than 100 activists was released yesterday, calling on her to visit labour camps. It urged her to lobby Peking to scrap the

"reform through labour" punishment system, under which someone can be sentenced to three years without a trial and with no access to lawyers.

Human Rights in China, a New York-based group, said 230,000 are imprisoned under this legislation. The dissidents' petition also called on Mrs Robinson to lobby for the right to form political parties and for curbs on police powers.

Many personal freedoms and human rights commitments are enshrined in China's constitution. But this means little in a country where the police are a law unto themselves, and where the judicial process is easily swayed by political demands. Common criminals, as well as political dissidents, are often the victims of miscarriages of justice, with almost no hope of a successful appeal.

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Match 6 (Jackpot)	5	£1,425,455	£7,127,275
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Match 5	855	£1,503	£1,285,565
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09/01/2015



# France offers sanctuary to Lebanon army

AT THE Ottoman-built Residence des Pins embassy, in central Beirut, a visa for France awaits the young woman whom Israel released from its notorious Khiam prison in southern Lebanon last week.

She Beshara, a Communist activist who 10 years ago tried to murder General Antoine Lahd, leader of Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army" militia, emerged from captivity as determined and angry as she was when seized after her murder attempt. "To abandon the resistance would be to surrender myself," she shouted to journalists, making victory signs with both hands.

Why is France inviting Ms Beshara to visit Paris, or, as some say, to study at a French university? And why is the French President, Jacques Chirac, also prepared, according to Lebanese press reports, to offer French passports to the man she tried to kill with his most senior officers?

The answer, it seems, is that President Chirac wants to play a greater role in the Middle East and, through French generosity, to disentangle Israel from its occupation of Lebanon. All this stuns the Lebanese, they should re-read the history of France's war in Algeria, when, on the eve of independence, President Charles de Gaulle allowed thousands of *harkis* - Algerians who had fought in the French army against their fellow Muslims - to settle in France.

One of Israel's conditions for abandoning its occupation of southern Lebanon is immunity for its Lebanese collaborators and the integration of General Lahd and his men into the Lebanese army. Lebanon, which does not wish to have Israeli intelligence agents in its army's ranks, has refused.

So step forward President Chirac, who may have already given General Lahd and a few of his men the French passports that would allow them to flee

BY ROBERT FISK  
in Beirut

Lebanon when Israel eventually decides to end its occupation.

In France, it should be remembered, there also lives the exiled Lebanese rebel General Michel Aoun, who was given asylum there almost a decade ago after his hopeless war against Syria collapsed. The French are not too keen on Middle East immigrants, but General Aoun, who used to compare himself to De Gaulle, appeals to France's Jacobin sentiments, while Soha Beshara - a Communist opponent of Israel, rather than an Islamist - will be acceptable to the French left. And France's Israeli lobby will have no



Chirac: wants withdrawal

objections to asylum for General Lahd and the boys if it gets Israeli troops out of Lebanon.

All very neat. Except that Soha Beshara seems in no hurry to use her French passport. She said she was tortured with electricity when first taken to prison - almost certainly true, since nearly every other prisoner endured the same treatment after incarceration - and has no intention of abandoning the guerrilla movement. She denounced General Lahd, whom she seriously wounded after befriending his family, as "a Zionist Jew" rather than a Lebanese.

"She was like a member of our family - a charming, intelligent girl," General Lahd told

me while recovering from his wounds. "She had the run of our home." He still suffers from a gunshot wound to the chest, but had freed the 30-year-old woman - a heroine to thousands of Lebanese - for "humanitarian reasons". In reality, the French visa ride General Lahd of his most popular prisoner.

But what of his other comrades, the lowly gunmen who have fought for Israel for money, or because they were blackmailed into Israel's ramshackle SLA militia? When the Israelis ended their occupation of Sidon in 1985, they promised protection to all their collaborators and then abandoned most of them to be butchered by their guerrilla enemies.

Those same enemies, the Hizbollah movement, which has been fighting Israeli occupation for 16 years, say they will give no quarter to any other SLA men still loyal to Israel after a withdrawal.

And the French *harkis*? Many were indeed given asylum in France, where they languish to this day in poverty. Many more were not treated so generously. Tricked into disarming by their French officers, they were left for the Algerian FLN to massacre. Most were forced to dig their own graves then dispatched with a butcher's knife across the throat.

Will France be any more generous with General Lahd's lesser comrades? If President Chirac can secure an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the United States will be forced to deal with Paris in the event (admittedly distant) of a Middle East peace. France has a seat on the 1996 South Lebanon ceasefire committee and - thanks to a carefully planned state visit by President Hafez al-Assad last July - excellent relations with Syria. France's pretensions to great-power status are making themselves felt here. Whether they will embrace the rest of General Lahd's *harkis* remains to be seen.



A mass bungee-jumping record was claimed when 25 Germans leapt from Frankfurt's Deutsche Bank

Bernad Kammerer

## Serbs take Albanian men to unknown fate

BY MARCUS TANNER

of ethnic Albanian men being separated from their refugee families and taken away by Serbian police.

"These reports are very disturbing. They are reminiscent of similar reports from the [1992-95] Bosnian war."

Mr Shattuck was speaking yesterday during a tour of central Kosovo with Robert Dole, the former US senator, who

chairs the International Commission on Missing Persons.

Mr Dole said the empty, burnt Albanian villages he saw recalled Serb ethnic cleansing of Muslims and Croats in Bosnia in 1992, but Serb actions now evoked no more than international hand-wringing and empty threats.

"We said we wouldn't let that happen again, and it's happening," he said.

Mr Shattuck and Mr Dole heard the reports of men being

separated from their families during a stop in the ethnic Albanian village of Mircusa.

The reports come from refugees over the past three days. All say thousands of Albanians driven from their homes by Serbian shelling west of the town of Malisevo congregated on the village of Panorac last week. Those groups were surrounded by Serbian police backed by armour. All fighting-age men

were taken away, the refugees said.

Tens of thousands of Muslim and Croat Bosnians were "taken away" by Serb forces in the 1992-95 war in the former Yugoslav republic, never to be seen alive again.

In a sign of Europe's lack of resolve on Kosovo, EU diplomats in Salzburg yesterday managed to agree only on a ban on Yugoslav airline flights to EU airports.

## Stowaway's American dream ends in Suez canal

IT WAS a definitely a case of being neither home nor dry. The Egyptian authorities reported yesterday that they had captured a stowaway from Georgia (the republic in the Caucasus, not the state in America) who threw himself out of a ship's hold, apparent-

ly convinced that he was hurling himself into the territorial waters of the United States.

Khesheir Zebadi had hidden himself on board a Yemeni-owned ship sailing from the former Soviet republic to the United States. Thinking he had arrived in the land

of his dreams, Mr Zebadi threw himself overboard after the ship docked to pick up some supplies.

Alas, it was not the blue waters of the Pacific off California, or even the choppy Atlantic off America's east coast. It was the Suez canal, in

Egypt. Definitely a case of bad timing.

Cairo's security forces, who last night had Mr Zebadi in their custody, were not saying whether they would send him back home, or allow him to go free to complete the long, last leg of his journey.

### IN BRIEF

#### Iraq threat to act over sanctions

AN IRAQI newspaper that reflects the views of the ruling Baath party warned yesterday that Iraq will take "necessary action" if the UN Security Council does not lift punishing trade sanctions. The front-page editorial in *Al-Thawra* also attacked an American and British draft resolution introduced to the Security Council last week that called for the suspension of regular sanctions reviews until Iraq reverses its 5 August decision to freeze co-operation with UN weapons inspectors.

#### Pro-EU party wins Maltese poll

MALTA'S NATIONALIST leader, Eddie Fenech Adami, claimed an election victory yesterday for his conservative party, which advocates EU membership. The Labour Prime Minister, Alfred Sant, said he had handed in his resignation. About 95 per cent of the 378,000 eligible voters turned out for an election called early by Mr Sant to try to strengthen his party's one-vote majority in parliament.

#### Kabila heads for Congo summit

CONGO'S PRESIDENT Laurent Kabila, will lead his country's delegation at talks in Zimbabwe today aimed at ending civil war in the former Zaire. Mr Kabila accuses his former allies in Rwanda and Uganda of sending their armies to back Congolese Tutsis who rebelled on 2 August. Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia sent troops to prop up Mr Kabila's beleaguered army.

#### Israel to extradite US teenager

AN ISRAELI judge ruled yesterday that Samuel Sheinbein, an 18-year-old American teenager, can be extradited to the United States to face murder charges after the mutilated body of Alfredo Tello was found in Silver Spring, Maryland, two days after he fled to Israel last September.

#### Children rescued from cave

AUSTRIAN RESCUERS pulled out 16 people, including six children, trapped in the world's deepest cave at the weekend at Lamprechtshausen, 150 miles south-west of Vienna. They were trapped when water in the cave rose so quickly that they were unable to find their way out.

### HUNTER DAVIES

"The fans, as Manchester United showed when merchandising became king, are peripheral."

— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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# Monsoons pour tragedy on Bangladesh

By PETER POPHAM  
in Dhaka

BANGLADESH'S catastrophic floods worsened over the weekend, with monsoon rains adding to the swollen rivers and abnormally high tides in the Bay of Bengal preventing floodwater from running off. The death toll continued to rise: more than 100 evacuees were feared drowned when a boat taking them to safety sank 255km (158 miles) north of Dhaka. At least 700 have died so far.

Up close, an urban flood is a quiet disaster. Despite the embankment thrown up around Dhaka after the flood of 1988, two-thirds of the Bangladeshi capital is now under water.

We left our car outside a garment factory, a big yellow building on the edge of Gulshan, the booming commercial and residential district. Next door was Aarong, a huge modern supermarket of Bangladeshi handicrafts. Both now front on to a new lagoon: the water begins at the doorstep.

At the edge of the lagoon we selected our gondola. The so-called "country boats" were lined up here, flat-bottomed, pointed at both ends, banged together from wood more solid than a packing case, but not much. The battered bowl used for baiting is the most important item of equipment. Two boys punted us along, using bamboo poles. We sat tight. "Once you're on board, the most important thing is not to move," the photographer said.

Bangladesh's floods are killing people through drowning, electrocution and, most dreaded of all, snake bites.

The lack of safe drinking water is causing diarrhoea. Prolonged exposure to germs in floodwater is causing skin diseases. But the odour of rot is relatively small for a country as disaster-prone as Bangladesh. For now, the flood manifests itself to most people as a terrible nuisance.

To shop for food (if your local grocer has managed to build a high lintel in the doorway and pump his shop dry), you must wade, or wait for the packing-case ferry. In many houses, under-floor water storage tanks have been penetrated by flood water. To find safe drinking water you must lug



A train and a raft negotiate the floodwaters 25 miles south of Dhaka in Bangladesh yesterday. Two months of flooding has severely damaged the railroad system.

your metal jars hundreds of metres to the nearest hand pump still in use.

The gas supply is cut or unreliable; for those who have to cook on open fires, the wood or dried cow dung normally used is unavailable, and some have to cook over burning rags.

In the poor streets of Gulshan, most people have managed to stay in their homes, building up beds and tables so they are above the water level, though this entails living squashed up against the corrugated iron roofs. Many smaller, flimsier houses have succumbed, only their roofs

projecting above the water. Their owners have fled, or taken to living as best they can on a sloping iron roof.

The floods of 1998 have gone on for two months now, compared with the two or three weeks of the last comparable disaster, in 1988. In Dhaka, the uncomplaining and adaptable Bengalis have grown accustomed to living like water rats in this new Venice of the East.

There are abundant boats, both the leaky tube-like ours and bigger, more plausible punts of the same design, up to 20ft long. There are plenty of boatmen, too: street children like

our crew in smaller boats, tradesmen rendered idle by the flood in bigger ones. When we moved up a size to venture into deeper water, our thoroughly incompetent sailors were two carpenters.

Watery Dhaka is in one sense nicer than the dry town. There the air is dense with smoke from the filthy two-stroke three-wheelers - "baby taxis" they call them - that clog the streets. Here the air is mostly fresh and clean. In Gulshan, the government's fish ponds have swelled into lakes, and hidden among the bushes at the water's edge, enterpris-

ing locals fish furtively but with success, using homemade bamboo rods. And everywhere small children plunge, punt, swim, splash and play.

But bad times are on the way. In the countryside, poor farmers are malnourished. An outbreak of measles in the north has alarmed aid workers, for measles combined with malnutrition kills children easily.

Bangladesh's problem is that this long, high flood is not an isolated event; as Nayeem Wahra explained, it is the latest in a succession of calamities. He is disaster preparedness manager with Oxfam and has

just returned from a tour of some of the worst-hit areas.

"In October last year there was no monsoon, so the rice harvest failed," he said. "That was followed by a severe winter, leading to the failure of vegetable crops. The rice harvest this spring was only average. Now the summer flood means there will be no harvest at all in November."

"From now onwards gruel kitchens will be the only way to prevent famine, because people in the flooded areas no longer have money to buy food. Until last month, they were borrowing money from the rich and

"distress-selling" their valuables. Now the rich are refusing to lend them money. They say, 'You are not going to have a crop to harvest, so I am not going to get my money back...'"

He added: "We see a number of worrying indicators. We see poor people sending their children to work as domestic servants in the homes of the rich - not to earn money, because they are paid nothing, but merely to get two meals a day. In the past two weeks, rice trucks have been looted by famished people. And while the price of rice and vegetables has shot up, the price of meat

has actually gone down - because the poor are distress-selling their cattle. A very bad time is coming."

A flood is bad but the aftermath is much worse. That is when the streets of Dhaka will be thick with vile mud, flies and other disease-carrying insects will multiply, and infections, especially dysentery and diarrhoea, are expected to become rampant. There is also, as Mr Wahra points out, the increasing certainty of widespread famine. The present watery interlude, with all its inconveniences, is the calm before a very nasty storm.

## Son of Kim leads North Korea but not as president

NORTH KOREA has pronounced its "Dear Leader", Kim Jong Il, *de facto* head of state, but disappointed expectations that he would follow his father to become president.

Observers say the move underlines Kim's lack of confidence in overcoming the coun-

By YOO CHOON-SIK  
in Seoul

try's desperate crisis. Over the weekend, the parliament of the world's last Stalinist state re-elected Kim, the son of late "Great Leader" President Kim Il Sung, the chairman of the en-

hanced National Defence Commission.

However, it then abolished the post of president, having declared the late Kim North Korea's "eternal president". Instead it called the post of Chairman of the National Defence Commission "the

highest post of the state". The Korean Central News Agency in Pyongyang said the newly amended constitution granted the Chairman the right to declare war and mobilise soldiers. "Kim still lacks confidence in overcoming the current crisis and prefers to remain behind

the scenes. He still needs his father's charisma," said Park Hun-ok, of the Institute of North Korea Studies in Seoul.

Kim faces a daunting task. North Korea, which insists self-reliance is the central plank of its political ideology, has been forced to seek international

handouts after three years of floods and droughts caused widespread food shortages.

Observers believe Kim Jong Il will be able to deflect some of the blame for failures to Kim Jong Nam, the former foreign minister, who was appointed president of the

Supreme People's Assembly, the North Korean parliament.

Kim Jong Il had been widely expected to take the presidency, the last of the three titles that his father had held until he died in 1994. The younger Kim was named supreme military commander in 1991 and com-

munist party secretary last October.

Since his death, Kim Il Sung has remained the head of state and diplomatic documents have been issued in his name, allowing Kim Jong Il to avoid meeting diplomats or hosting receptions.

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## The last laugh came all too soon

CITY LIFE  
NEW DELHI

JUST FOR a laugh, my friend Tara and I woke before dawn and took my car to a park on the far side of the Yamuna river. Such behaviour runs counter to our natures, as both of us are night owls and slugabeds, but we were literally looking for laughs.

Our destination was Noida - the New Okhla Industrial Development Area - a name not usually associated with comic possibilities.

But we had heard that in this vast commuters' suburb adjacent to Delhi, you can awake to the sound of laughter - not the playground shrieks of tiny kids but deep resonating hoots of 50 adults who gather on the grass at dawn for laughter therapy.

As a wake-up call, it must be superior to an alarm. If it is a sense of humour that gives our species its humanity, this would be the defining sound effect. We wanted to check it out. Forget the cosmic giggle and go for the belly laugh.

Our search led us to Colonel H K Singh, a retired army officer. He was keen on this new-fangled therapy, even though it seems to be based on the tired truism of "laugh and the world laughs with you". But laughing in unison, at nothing? Was this some new-age joke marketing the wisdom of the East back to itself?

"There are no jokes, just



Laughter therapy can be contagious, but many Indians want to catch it

guffaws," Col Singh explained. "This kind of laughing is contagious. It is supposed to ease tensions. Very good for the health. The first group I ever heard of started up on a Bombay beach but now there are hundreds."

Personally, though, Col Singh had yet to turn out for one of these public laugh-ins. It was because the timetable for these sessions is no laughing matter, according to Renu, Col Singh's Noida neighbour. Occasionally, she hears hearty laughs wafting through her window while she is still under her covers.

"It is a joyful noise," she smiled. "But they do this very early, between five and

six in the morning." Her dreams are stirred by this laugh track, but she sleeps on. As the birds emitted their first chirps, Tara and I wondered what possible reasons to be cheerful existed at this hour. Mosquitoes feasted on our ankles. Local health alerts are out for dengue fever and even drowsy - a swelling disease of leaky blood vessels more familiar from Raj-era gravestones.

Already 47 drowsy deaths in Delhi, and more than a thousand cases in hospital have been traced to profiteers who top up cooking oil tins with used motor oil. The victims frequently go blind. If this wasn't enough to make us

feel vulnerable, there's the nuclear peril following tit-for-tat atomic testing by India and Pakistan. Such worries are not so easy to laugh off. Maybe a wailing session would be more appropriate.

By the time we crossed the bridge - passing up the opportunity to breakfast on fried and thereby possibly poisonous parathas - we felt annoyed to be in Noida instead of in bed. But following Col Singh's directions, we found the public park at dawn in a state of hyper-animation, with hundreds of energetic people greeting the sun.

Entire families, balanced with yogic contortions on motor scooters, dismounted

for a brisk walk round the track. Office clerks and middle-aged women in saris wheezed through their morning calisthenics. Vigorous youths did kung fu warm-ups while others flung frisbees or practised football. A yogi with lank white hair twisted himself into a tight pretzel.

On the lawn beside him sat a small group ready to laugh. Chortles, sniggers or fitters won't do for this therapy: what's required is classic cackination, a jolly loud burst from the solar plexus. It sounds nothing like the mocking or nervous laughter we usually hear. It is uproarious... but, in this case, puzzlingly brief. After a half dozen laughing outbursts, they stopped abruptly. Next, everyone flipped on to all fours, stuck out their tongues, arched their necks, and began to roar.

We loitered at the edge of the lawn, the only ones not actively pursuing self-improvement. Tara toyed with a cigarette but didn't dare light up, though the smoke might have warded off the mosquitoes.

As soon as the class broke up, we asked about laughter therapy. It is useful for breath control, the yogi told us with a dour expression, but he preferred to teach only traditional yoga postures. A woman suggested brightly: "You should try laughter therapy in sector 15, just around the block. By now, today's session is finished, but you can come tomorrow." Tara rolled her eyes and whispered: "I guess the laugh's on us."

JAN MCGIRK

July 1, 2015



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## BUSINESS

## Vodafone poised for £42bn alliance with US operator

## BRIEFING

## Greenspan hint on rate cut

ALAN GREENSPAN, the Federal Reserve Chairman, is considering a policy change leading to lower interest rates amid signs that the recession in many Asian countries and the collapse of several financial markets may derail the US economy. Mr Greenspan, who two months ago said he was concerned that low unemployment and rising wages might cause inflation to accelerate, told students at the University of California at Berkeley that the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee "will need to consider carefully the potential ramifications of ongoing developments" since its last session 18 August.

The FOMC has held the overnight bank lending rate steady at 5.5 per cent since March 1997.

## Vickers may close tank factory

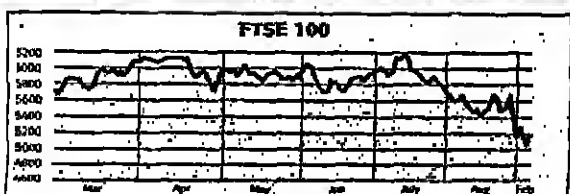


Vickers, the defence group, said yesterday that it may close tank factory in Newcastle, with the loss of up to 600 jobs, unless it clinched new export orders within months. The company has linked the fate of the factory to a £1bn order for the Challenger 2 tank (pictured above) from the Greek government. Yesterday Doug Hefferson, the Defence minister, said he would do "all he could" to help the company win the contract and protect jobs. Vickers is vying with Germany's Krauss Maffei, which makes the Leopard tank, for the Greek order. Vickers hopes that Germany's close links with Turkey, a bitter enemy of Athens, could sway the contract in its favour.

## Brazil's bank acts

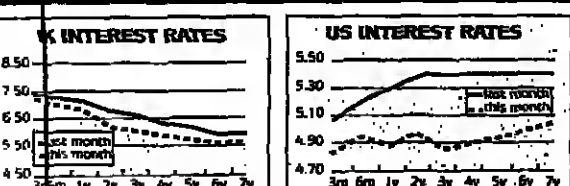
BRAZIL'S Central Bank boosted its benchmark interest rate by 10 percentage points to stop an outflow of capital this morning, reaching 11.5 per cent, amid concerns that Brazil's currency will be weakened. The central bank said its overnight rate, which it charges banks for loans, will rise to 200 per cent, from 10 per cent, beginning tomorrow. The rate will remain in effect until 30 September. The move represents a sharp policy shift for the bank, which had lowered rates nine straight times this year in an effort to boost the economy.

## STOCK MARKETS



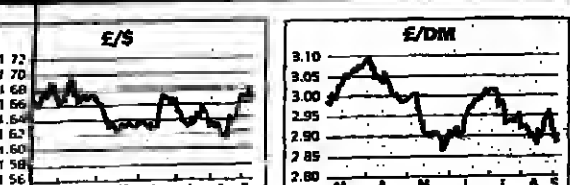
Index	Close	High	Low	52 wk high	52 wk low	YTD % chg
FTSE 100	4,382.5	4,400.0	4,360.0	4,850.0	3,900.0	-3.90
FTSE 250	1,428.3	1,440.0	1,410.0	1,550.0	1,200.0	-4.68
FTSE 350	2,953.1	2,970.0	2,930.0	3,300.0	2,700.0	-3.23
FTSE All Share	2,953.1	2,970.0	2,930.0	3,300.0	2,700.0	-3.23
FTSE SmallCap	2,953.1	2,970.0	2,930.0	3,300.0	2,700.0	-3.23
FTSE 100 Dividend	115.50	116.00	115.00	120.00	110.00	-4.36
FTSE 100 Yield	2.70	2.75	2.65	2.80	2.50	-1.45
FTSE 100 Vol	900.39	910.00	890.00	1,000.00	700.00	-
DAX Index	4,111.43	4,130.00	4,090.00	4,300.00	3,900.00	-1.97
Nikkei	12,728.00	12,750.00	12,700.00	13,000.00	12,400.00	-1.03
Hang Seng	7,488.47	7,500.00	7,470.00	7,600.00	7,300.00	-5.49
ASX	4,820.25	4,830.00	4,810.00	4,900.00	4,700.00	-3.32

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 months	6 months	12 months	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.50	7.50	7.50	5.34	-1.64	5.04	-1.30
US	0.00	-0.13	0.00	-0.56	5.01	-1.32	5.29
Japan	0.62	0.05	0.01	-0.04	1.36	-0.82	1.31
Germany	3.45	0.17	0.03	-0.02	4.23	-1.44	5.05

## CURRENCIES



Index	Friday	Week's chg	Yr ago
Dollar	1.6720	-0.05	1.5850
D-Mark	2.8915	-0.06	2.8821
Yen	223.08	-15.01	191.60
£/ind	104.30	-1.70	100.70

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Week's chg	Yr ago
Brent (\$)	12.84	0.64	15.06
Gold (\$)	286.85	12.50	321.35
Silver (\$)	4.98	0.20	4.67

## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Austria (\$)	2.6987	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.80
Austria (schillings)	20.26	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2502
Belgium (francs)	59.59	New Zealand (\$)	3.1763
Canada (\$)	2.3681	Norway (krone)	12.30
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8428	Portugal (escudos)	202.99
Denmark (krone)	11.05	Saudi Arabia (riyals)	6.0272
Finland (markka)	8.8210	Singapore (\$)	2.7262
France (francs)	9.6653	Spain (pesetas)	244.19
Germany (marks)	2.8938	South Africa (rand)	8.4738
Greece (drachma)	489.65	Sweden (krone)	12.97
Hong Kong (\$)	12.42	Switzerland (francs)	2.4119
Ireland (pounds)	1.1402	Thailand (bahts)	64.36
Japan (yenes)	64.16	Turkey (liras)	419.539
Israel (shekels)	5.6221	USA (\$)	1.6155
Italy (lira)	2854		
Korea (won)	232.36		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.2961		
Nigeria (nairas)	0.6262		

A £42BN MERGER or alliance between Vodafone, the UK's largest mobile phone operator, and Airtouch, the second-largest operator in the United States, looks to be on the cards. No announcement is expected in the next few days, but more than 30 leading City brokers and analysts left yesterday on a three-day guided tour of Vodafone's operations in the Netherlands, Germany, France and Sweden.

A Vodafone spokesman said it was company policy not to comment on rumours, but he did not dispute that the logic of a link between the two companies is compelling. Vodafone is strong in Northern Europe, including Germany, the

By Clifford German

Netherlands and Sweden, while Airtouch's main European businesses are in Spain, Portugal and Italy. Chris Godsmark, telecoms analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said yesterday that the logic of such a deal, if it goes ahead, was unarguable. "Vodafone's strategic objective is to become the dominant global mobile telephones operator," said Mr Godsmark.

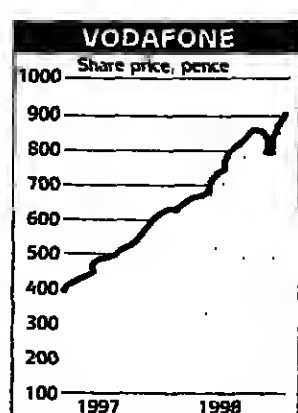
The two companies are said to have held talks last year but were unable to agree terms because of the size differential between the two businesses. Although both companies have been affected by the sharp falls

in stock values on both Wall Street and in London in the past month, Vodafone's share price has more than doubled in the past year and it is now slightly the larger company, with a market capitalisation of £23bn against Airtouch's £19bn. A full merger is thought to be just one of the expansion plans being considered by Vodafone's chief executive, Chris Gent, as part of his strategy of turning Vodafone into the leading global player.

A second possibility is a deal which falls short of a full merger, but which pools the two companies' overseas operations in a joint company while leaving Vodafone in full control of its UK operations and Air-

touch maintaining its US domestic business, which is focused on the Pacific Coast. Transatlantic telecoms mergers have been discouraged in the past by the absence of any genuinely national operators and also by technical differences between the US and UK systems, which operate on different frequencies. Plans for UMTS, a third generation of mobile phones that will make possible a common standard, are due to be published next year.

A third option being discussed in the City is a joint bid for Airtouch from Vodafone and WorldCom, the US telecoms giant which last year outbid British Telecom for con-



trol of the US long-distance telecom operator, MCI WorldCom would take over Airtouch's US domestic

operations and Vodafone would take over its European operations to create a single strong presence in Western Europe and replace the current network of national franchises with a genuine single market. Analysts admit, however, that WorldCom will have its hands full implementing the takeover of MCI and that this suggested carve-up could be a stalking horse created to strengthen Vodafone's hand in direct talks with Airtouch. Mr Gent has discussed the possibility of a deal with Airtouch as one possible way of carrying forward the company's known ambitions to become the world's leading mobile telephones operator.



Airbus's Super Transporter aircraft being prepared for the Farnborough International 98 airshow in Hampshire yesterday. The airshow is the biggest in the last ten years, and is expected to show off 169 aircraft from all over the aeronautical world. Dave Caulkin/AP

## Airbus set to 'out show' Boeing

AIRBUS AND BOEING, the two aerospace giants locked in a bitter battle for control of the global aircraft market, are poised to unveil orders worth up to \$8.7bn (£5.4bn) at this week's Farnborough airshow. Industry experts yesterday predicted that the two arch-rivals will try to upstage each other by announcing a raft of high-profile deals at the world's biggest air showcase.

News of the orders came as it emerged that the transformation of Airbus - the European consortium in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake - into a standalone company will be delayed by up

to nine months because of technical difficulties.

Airbus is expected to fire the first salvo in the fiercely fought publicity campaign with its US rival Boeing. The group is set to announce that it has won an order worth around \$3bn (£1.9bn) for up to 20 of its A340-600 long-haul jets from the United Arab Emirates' flag carrier, the Emirates.

The European planemaker is also lining up a sale of up to 30 cargo jets - worth upwards of \$2.7bn (£1.6bn) - to United Parcel Services (UPS), the American mail delivery group.

Boeing, the US giant which was recently pipped by Airbus

said that the deals will give rise to a "cascade of options and service agreements which will benefit other companies down the aerospace food chain".

Rolls-Royce, the aerospace engineering group, is widely tipped to be one of the beneficiaries of the deals, and it is expected to win a \$1bn deal for the engines contract for the UAE aircraft.

The European planemaker is also lining up a sale of up to 30 cargo jets - worth upwards of \$2.7bn (£1.6bn) - to United Parcel Services (UPS), the American mail delivery group. Boeing, the US giant which was recently pipped by Airbus

in the race to a \$11bn jet order for British Airways, is set to respond with a number of orders worth up to \$3bn.

It is expected to include a large contract for wide-body Boeing 777s with a leading US carrier. European airlines are also set to take options on Boeing's revamped 737s, the US manufacturer's best-selling aircraft.

Industry sources said that speculation was mounting that Boeing could also announce a deal for its 100-seat 717, while Airbus was expected to respond by setting out plans to develop its own 100-seater. Experts said that the order

battle between Airbus and Boeing was set to overshadow news that the European group will miss its 1 January 1999 deadline to transform itself into a single entity.

Yves Michot, chief executive of Aérospatiale, the French group which owns 37.9 per cent of Airbus, revealed yesterday that the four partners - BAe, Aérospatiale, Germany's Daimler-Benz and Spain's Casa - were having trouble valuing their respective assets to form a single company.

"It will be accomplished in 1999, but whether it's six months or nine months into the year, I can't say," he added.

## Italian and German ministers clash over Russia moratorium

MARKETS face another worrying week as uncertainty over the effect of the Russian economic crisis continues.

Major differences of opinion emerged over the weekend between the German and Italian foreign ministers over the best approach to helping Russia to escape from the financial black hole which threatens to swallow the struggling Russian economy.

The Italian foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, was quoted on Saturday as saying that a moratorium on Russia's estimated \$150bn (£90bn) of foreign debt is inevitable, because it is hardly possible for Russia to meet its short-term obligations.

Mr Dini said the EU should give "some kind of reconsi-

By Clifford German

deration to Russia's foreign debt."

However Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, speaking at the EU foreign ministers' meeting in Salzburg, Austria, yesterday was quick to reject the idea of a moratorium.

"We must help Russia in difficult times but we mustn't immediately move towards a moratorium," said Mr Kinkel. He said that until now Russia had been a reliable debtor and it was important that it continued to service its debts to Germany. German banks are estimated to have lent some DM\$4bn (£1.8bn) to Russia.

The public disagreement between the two European

statesmen took much of the gloss off a recommendation that three EU foreign ministers - Mr Kinkel, Austria's Wolfgang Schüssel and the UK Foreign Minister, Robin Cook, should fly to Moscow as soon as possible to discuss the growing crisis.

But there is no lack of scheduled debate on the issue. The deputy finance ministers of the Group of Seven nations will meet in London over the next 10 days to consider the implications of the Russian crisis, a Treasury spokesman said yesterday.

The meeting has been called by the UK in its role as the current chairman of the G7, which lasts until the end of the year. The crisis will also be dis-

cussed by the meeting of finance ministers in Vienna at the end of September, by ministers at the annual Commonwealth conference in Ottawa, and by the Group of Seven again when it gathers in Washington for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank early next month.

But the official UK policy towards Russia remains that the country should elect a new government to take control of policy and implement the economic reforms it undertook to make in order to secure a financial support package from the IMF in July.

Russia's central bank chairman, Sergei Dubinin, said that Russia would not default on its foreign debt. He told *The In-*

dependent on Sunday at the weekend that Russia would do its best to meet its obligations even if the IMF broke off its loan programme.

But reports were circulating in London over the weekend that the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) would this week be forced to write off loans larger than the £250m written off last month by Barclays Bank.

In the absence of any strong initiatives to resolve the crisis, the markets face a continuation of the slide of last week. The Tokyo market faces further bad news from companies reporting in the next few days and uncertainty over proposals to stabilise Japan's ailing financial system.

## Top City analysts poached by US bankers

By Francesco Guerrera

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY, the United States' investment bank, has poached a team of top City banking analysts from one of its rivals, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson (DKB).

Salomon is preparing to announce today that DKB's United Kingdom bank team, which is headed by Simon Samuels, will join its existing banking analysts.

The DKB team, which also includes Nick Lord and Stuart Young, is one of the most highly-regarded group of analysts in the Square Mile.

Mr Samuels' team topped the 1998 Reuters Survey of Larger Companies, and it also came third in the Emtel Survey of Investment Analysts, the City's most respected poll of analysts.

In addition, Jeremy Sigeo will join Salomon from DKB's European bank team, the American bank will also be announcing today.

These departures leave DKB severely weakened in one of the most important sectors in Europe.

Albert Richards, who is Salomon Smith Barney's head of European research, said: "With roughly \$1.3bn in market capitalisation, banking is the largest sector in Europe."

"The addition of Simon and his team further reinforces one of the best UK and Pan-European bank research teams, and it underscores Salomon Smith Barney's commitment to becoming a leading equities player in Europe."

The new arrivals will trigger a shake-up in Salomon's existing United Kingdom bank team. The American investment bank will announce that John Leonard, who is currently covering the UK and Europe, will become its full-time European analyst. Matthew Czeplewicz and Inigo Lecubari, the other two UK analysts, are both expected to retain their places.

Mr Samuels joined Dresdner Kleinwort Benson in 1996 after a two-year spell working with Merrill Lynch, and an earlier career in fund management with Prudential Portfolio Management.

Mr Lord joined DKB in 1994, while Mr Young joined the bank in January last year after working with the broker, Charterhouse Tiney, as a banking analyst.

City experts said yesterday that DKB is expected to hit back, and it would be in the acquisition market for other banks' analysts.

Top analysts teams include the Merrill Lynch banking group, led by Richard Coleman, which came out on top in the Emtel Survey, and HSBC Securities analysts, led by Michael Lever, which came second.

BTALex, Brown's team, led by Mark Eady, was fourth behind DKB in this year's poll.



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Source: **Bloomberg**  
[www.bloomberg.com/uk](http://www.bloomberg.com/uk)

## SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Prices include the official closing price. Sector movements are based on the FTSE 250. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared dividends divided by a price at the end of the above year. The prebloomberg (P.B.) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, including extraordinary items but excluding extraordinary dividends. Ex rights is a dividend, a B-share is a Supersubordinated Priority Share with No Par Value. A.M. Price is the Bloomberg Market.

Source: Bloomberg

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# Are we paying to live in rip-off Britain?

AUGUST WAS not a good month for the supermarkets. First they learned that they were to be looked into by the Office of Fair Trading, which suspects they are making too much profit. And then the Murdoch press has begun attacking them for overpricing because so much of what they sell can be bought more cheaply in Europe.

So are we really living in "rip-off Britain" where the supermarkets gang up to extort huge margins from the ordinary shopper? I don't think so, but before I explain why, I must declare an interest. I am a regular customer and great fan of our supermarkets, one of which is a customer of my firm.

The reason why I don't think a comparison of a fairly small basket of items bought in England with its counterpart bought in France tells us anything about the profit margins of UK supermarkets is that, in the short run, any comparison of this sort is completely dominated by exchange rate movements.

Think back to that fateful Wednesday in September 1992 when sterling dropped out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. In August the pound bought nearly 10 French francs. By October it bought little more than 8 francs - the actual fall was just over 14 per cent between the two months.

Now imagine that the investigators had compared an English and a French shopping basket in August



**BILL ROBINSON**

*The reason France seems cheaper is simply that we haven't yet adjusted to the rising pound*

and found that the prices were roughly equal. Then, suppose that they did the exercise again in October. Inflation was low, so prices in each of the local currencies would scarcely have changed. But when the French prices were converted back into sterling at the new exchange rate, they would be 14 per cent higher. Rip-off France?

The sterling devaluation in 1992, although quicker, was actually less than the appreciation of the pound that has taken place over the last two-and-a-half years. It has moved from a low point of just over 7.5 francs in 1995 to a high of nearly 10.5 francs before falling back to the present rate of just under 10 francs.

Assuming for a moment that local prices were unaffected - I'll come back to that - this has put the price of the British shopping basket, compared with the French, up by no less than 37 per cent. Rip-off Britain? The rising exchange rate doesn't initially change margins one iota, but it certainly makes our shopping basket look expensive.

Of course, local prices have changed. My charts show what has actually happened. UK retail prices have been growing faster than French prices, as the top chart shows. But the difference, which is around 2 per cent a year, is completely swamped by the exchange-rate movements, shown in the middle chart. The bottom chart puts the two together and shows how French prices, when converted from francs to pounds, have moved. This is the price of the French shopping basket to the British buyer.

Because of currency movements French goods have fallen in price by 15 per cent to the British shopper since the first quarter of 1996, while the price of the UK basket has marched steadily upwards by 8 per cent. No wonder then that Britain seems an expensive place to shop compared with France.

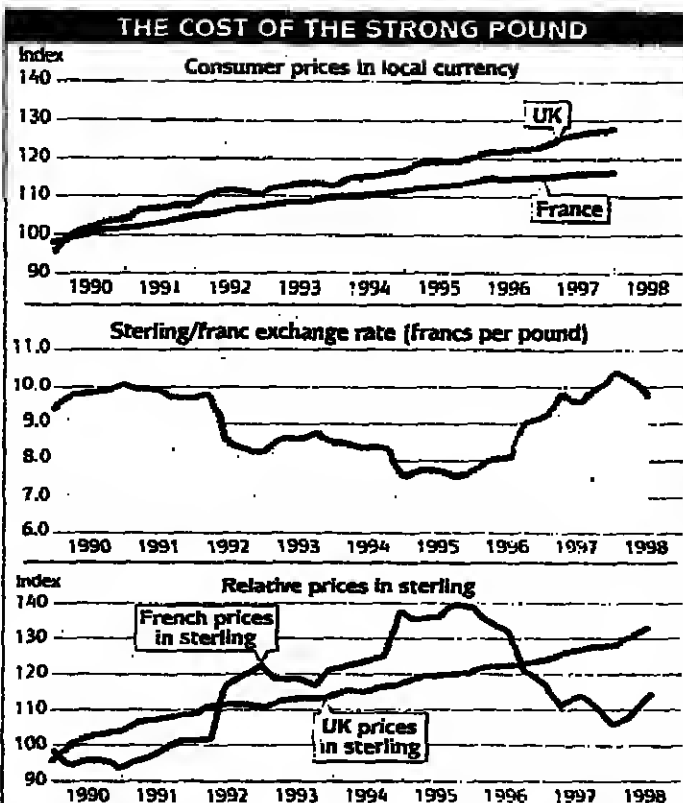
The bottom chart showing relative prices in a common currency is based on index numbers and only tells us about relative movements over time. It accords with common sense. Britain was uncompetitive -

that is, UK goods were more expensive than French goods - in 1990-92, which is why the pound was ultimately forced out of the ERM. It was then highly competitive for nearly four years, until the recent appreciation wiped out that margin. At current exchange rates Britain looks somewhat uncompetitive, and our balance of payments is deteriorating.

Now we must of course look beyond exchange rate movements and ask what their effect will be on prices and on margins. Let us think - pleasant subject - about wine. When the pound is strong the wine in UK supermarkets looks very expensive compared to what you can buy in France. I priced a bottle of Pouilly Fumé at a mere £4 in a French supermarket this summer. You would be lucky to buy a wine of similar quality at twice the price in the UK.

Rip-off Britain? No, because the expensive bottle you buy in the UK is more heavily taxed and was probably bought in by the supermarket at a price that reflects the old, less favourable, exchange rates. When the pound rises, individuals can nip over to Calais and buy cheap wine next day. It takes the supermarkets rather longer to replace their expensive stock.

You can be sure that the wine buyers in Tesco, Waitrose and Sainsbury's will have noticed my Pouilly Fumé, or similar opportunities, and the vigorous competition



between them will ensure that good-value French wine will find its way on to British supermarket shelves. But finding the product in bulk, negotiating terms and drawing up new supply contracts takes a lot longer than a quick trip to

Calais. Individuals can arbitrage in wine faster than supermarkets can. None of this is to deny that there are many things that you can buy more cheaply in French supermarkets than in English ones, even when the exchange rate has settled

down to a normal value. The fact is that the supermarkets sell 20,000 to 40,000 product lines, depending on their size. Many of these products may occupy very different niches in different markets and be priced accordingly. So you can always find a basket of rip-off goods if you look for one. To establish whether prices really are higher in general in the UK than in France is actually a pretty laborious statistical exercise. You cannot just select a handful of goods at random; you need to sample a wide variety of goods in a wide variety of locations. You need to establish standards to ensure you are comparing like with like.

The international organisations grapple with this and produce statistics telling us how much cheaper it is to buy a representative basket of goods in one country rather than another. According to the OECD earlier this year, you could buy that basket 7 per cent cheaper in France than in the UK. That is a carefully-researched figure and a fairly small difference. It is much more representative than some of the dramatic differences in the cost of particular items found by the Sunday Times.

And that 7 per cent difference tells us little or nothing about supermarket margins. It simply says UK prices have not fully adjusted to the effect of the rising pound.

Bill Robinson is a director of the consultancy London Economics



Life's open-outcry system is thought to cost traders up to four times as much as screen-based systems PA

## Liffe in merger talks with Clearing House

LIFFE, THE London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, is considering a merger with the London Clearing House, a back-office operation that settles contracts for a number of City-based markets, including the London Metal Exchange, the International Petroleum Exchange and Tradeport.

A merger would make sense by eliminating duplication of costs for City-based banks and trading houses which deal on both Liffe and the other London exchanges whose "paperwork" is handled by LCH.

Reducing costs is seen as essential if the London markets are to resist competition from hi-tech rivals on the continent, especially Frankfurt which is threatening to take away a growing part of the international business of trading con-



Williamson: Review

tracts in future interest rates, currencies and security indices. LCH's chief executive, David Hardy, was quoted as saying that: "We are as keen as Liffe to see its short-term interest rates franchise remain extremely successful because that is im-

portant to us as a business." Liffe was holding an open day for employees of member firms and their families yesterday, but a spokesman said that a merger with the LCH was being considered as part of an urgent review undertaken by the chief executive of Liffe, Brian Williamson.

Mr Williamson was one of the founder-members of Liffe back in 1982 and was brought back as executive chairman two months ago to rally Liffe in its battle to prevent its share of international business in futures and options being eroded by its Frankfurt-based rival, Deutsche Terminbörse. In the past 12 months DTB has taken a stranglehold on trading in the instruments based on 10-year securities issued by the Bundesbank.

DTB recently merged with

Soffex, the Swiss futures exchange, to form a new entity known as Eurex which has seized the initiative by switching to electronic screen-based trading, said to cost traders only a quarter of the traditional open-outcry trading system which still operates in London. In July Eurex traded 18.8 million contracts, an increase of 71 per cent in 12 months, while Liffe traded 13.3 million, a fall of 27 per cent.

Liffe plans to move to a partly screen-based system next year, but it was forced to abandon plans to move into a 244m purpose-built office in London's Spitalfields and to bring back Mr Williamson, who was also chairman of Gerrard, to conduct an urgent review of operations. That is about two-thirds complete, the Liffe spokesman said yesterday.

## Smiths sees US biochem firm as 'perfect' market fit

SMITHS INDUSTRIES is negotiating to buy Biochem International (BCI), a quoted United States company making vital signs-monitoring equipment and hand-held pulse oximeters in America, the company said yesterday.

The price under discussion is around \$83m (£49.6m). BCI's main shareholders, who control 75 per cent of the stock, are negotiating to merge BCI into Smiths Industries Medical Systems.

BCI made pre-tax profits of \$7.3m on sales of \$28m in the year to 30 June, and it has assets of \$22m including \$10m in

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

cash. Based near Milwaukee, the American company employs 120 people, who will remain with the company as part of Smiths Industries.

The company specialises in pulse oximeters which measure pulse, pulse strength and oxygen levels in the blood. Smiths is a leading player in the respiratory care market, estimated to be worth \$1.5bn a year in the US alone.

With the trend towards providing healthcare outside hospitals BCI's products will increase the range of Smiths

products in the market, and the link - which is subject to regulatory approval - would also help BCI achieve further increases in its sales in overseas markets.

Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, chief executive of Smiths Industries, said yesterday: "BCI complements our medical systems activities perfectly, by strengthening our product portfolio and increasing our opportunities to supply small hospitals and clinics."

"We expect the deal to enhance profits in the first year, even after amortisation of goodwill," he added.

The deal comes at an important time for Smiths Industries. After nudging the 1,000 mark earlier this year the shares fell to a 30-month low of 640p recently, and they are now in grave danger of dropping out of the FTSE 100 index at the next quarterly review of qualifying companies.

Relegation would have potentially serious consequences for the share price as institutions and fund managers committed to investing in the top 100 shares and tracker funds invariably dump the shares in favour of the newly elected companies.

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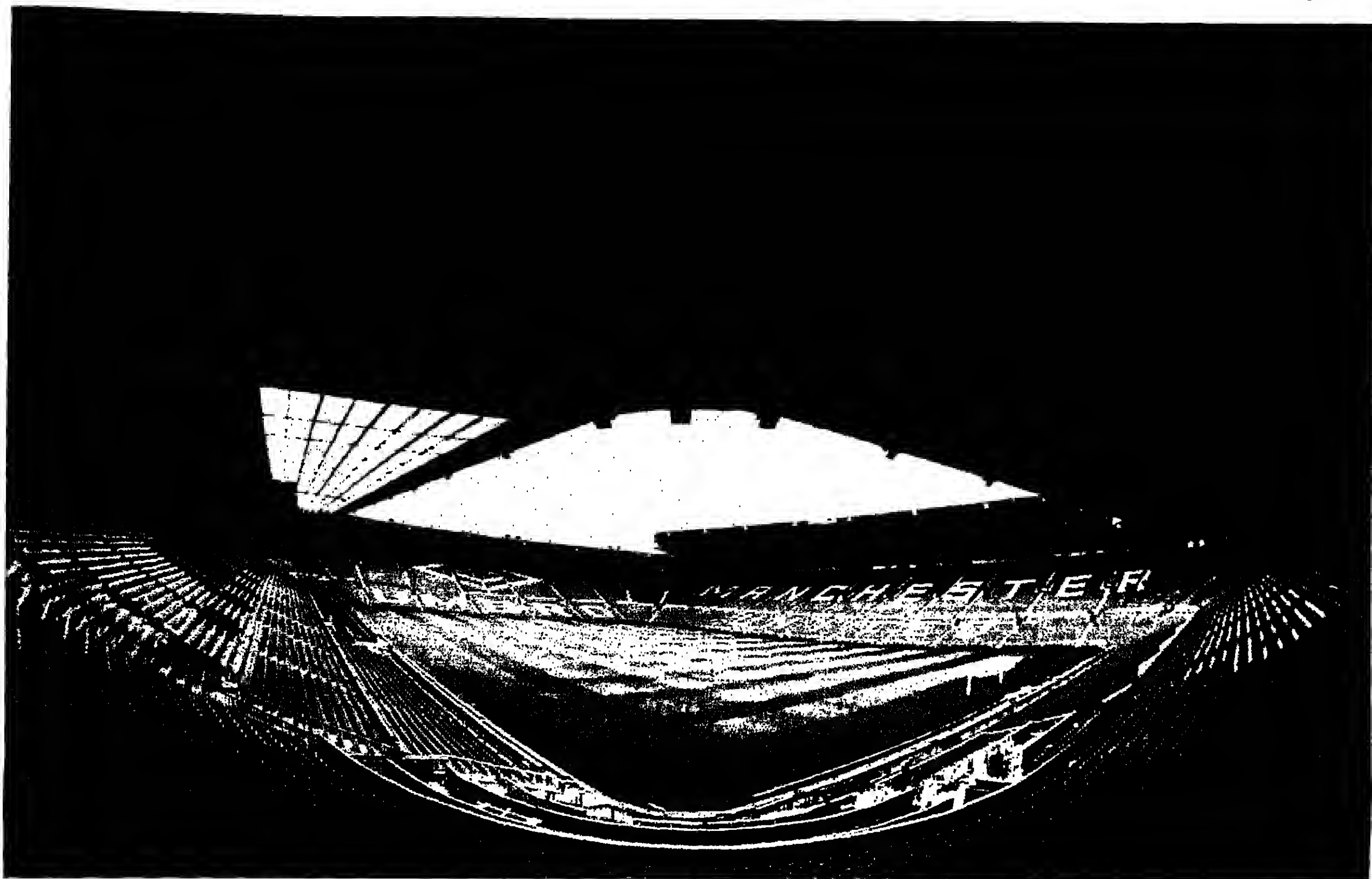
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# SPORT

Football: Chief executive Edwards is set to make a killing in sale of the century – but at what cost to the game?

## United primed to sell their heritage



Old Trafford's legendary Theatre of Dreams may soon become the property of BSkyB if the club accepts a reported £575m bid from the satellite television company

Mark Thompson/Allsport

By GUY HODGSON

AS TIME goes by Keith Burkinshaw's words as he left Tottenham Hotspur in 1984 become more relevant almost daily. "There used to be a football club over there," he said nodding in the direction of White Hart Lane, and as he delivered his parting shot he could have been bidding goodbye to the umbilical chord between the man in the street and the team he supports.

There used to be a football club at Old Trafford, too, but now there is a monolithic business concern called Manchester United plc and BSkyB's intention to make a bid of a reported £575m for it leaves no doubt the last three letters are becoming increasingly dominant. The People's Game? Not any more.

If the reports are true, one person will be rubbing his hands more than anyone. Nine years ago Martin Edwards, the club's chief executive, agreed to sell his 50.2 per cent share in the club to Michael Knighton for £10m. At 225 pence per share, his diluted 14 per cent stake would be worth £80m and there are suggestions he has already accepted the offer from Rupert Murdoch's satellite television company. "It could be we'll for ever more be known as Sky United," Andy Walsh of the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association, said yesterday. "Our fear

would be that Rupert Murdoch will exploit the Manchester United name for his own ends.

"It again shows the crying need for regulation in football because the fat cats of the City are more interested in coming in and stripping clubs of their assets rather than developing the game itself."

Knighton, whose fortune was made initially by buying and selling property, would meet the definition of a "fat cat", but it was he who first guessed at the true value of the club, and indeed football in this country. Sir Matt Busby made Manchester United but Knighton, now the owner of Carlisle United, understood the commercial worth of the name.

"When Martin mentioned the figure he wanted I didn't quibble," Knighton explained later. "I agreed straight away, there was no haggling. It was a snip. I couldn't believe I was getting control of United for £10m. There were people I knew who would have paid twice that."

It was only when doubts about Knighton's consortium surfaced and the deal collapsed – albeit at the cost of his being accepted on to the club's board – that it became apparent the price Edwards had accepted had been a serious undervaluation. It was partly to prevent a repetition that United were floated two years later for £47m.

The story since then has been

one of commercial success far outstripping even the triumphs of Alex Ferguson's football teams who have won four championships and two Doubles in the last six seasons. At a time when most clubs run at a loss even with huge amounts of television money, United's profits have rocketed from £4.2m in 1993 to £26.2m in 1997.

Branding has come in with a vengeance so that it is now possible to drink United soft-drinks, while dressed in club merchandise

before retiring to sleep under a Ryan Giggs duvet. All can be bought, of course, with the ManU credit card.

It is not popular with supporters, who have experienced growing distaste about where the club is heading but no-one could criticise the club's commercial prowess. Last year the annual revenue rose to £87.9m which is nearly as much as two giants of European football, Italian clubs Juventus and Internazionale (£90m), make combined.

BSkyB's offer, which is considerably higher than the 159p price at the close of the Stock Exchange on Friday and means investors will have increased their initial investment 16-fold in seven years, amounts to more than just buying the biggest football club in Europe, however. It guarantees the company's involvement in the sport that has been fundamental to its own profitability.

In 1992, when BSkyB first signed a deal with the Premier League,

there were around two million households subscribed to satellite, a figure that has since grown to seven million. Not all of that expansion can be attributed to football but no one would dispute it has been of paramount importance.

BSkyB paid £647m to renew their rights to screen the Premiership but such is the competition that when the current contract runs out in 2001 the price is likely to be in excess of £1 billion. That is if the league can be sold as an entity because clubs have shown increasing interest in going it alone with pay-per-view.

Murdoch made an offer in the summer to introduce pay-per-view this season and it was the Premiership's refusal to reach agreement with the satellite television company that almost certainly prompted his move now. It may or may not be a coincidence that United's own television service, MUTV, which comes on air this Thursday, is headed by a former sports editor of The Sun, Paul Ridley.

By buying United, BSkyB would be taking out an insurance policy, not only against clubs going it alone but also against the prospect of a European super league which could make their own coverage of domestic football of secondary importance.

No super league could take off without English television audi-

ences and no English clubs would be foolhardy enough to join if the biggest draw, United, remained within the Football Association fold.

Murdoch already owns a portfolio of sporting interests including the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team and the Los Angeles Lakers and the New York Knicks basketball teams, but United could be the most important for his business interests. The club's support extends far beyond Britain and is particularly healthy in the Far East which is an area covered by Murdoch's Star satellite service.

The most vocal opposition to the deal will come from United's supporters but more influential will be other Premiership clubs and television companies who will almost certainly complain to the Office of Fair Trading about the deal.

"There are implications here that mean it can't be regarded just as one publicly quoted company being taken over by another," Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, said yesterday. "It can't sail through because there are repercussions for sport in general."

You suspect the damage has been done already. If BSkyB are thwarted there are other companies without a possible conflict of interest who would probably succeed. How much longer before ICI Middlesbrough face Amstrad Hotspur?

### The club that nearly went broke

WALK INTO Old Trafford today and the overwhelming impression is of affluence. A huge ground, a team full of millionaires, it is the football equivalent of Louis XIV's court at Versailles. Yet Manchester United almost never came into being, writes Guy Hodgson.

In 1902, Newton Heath Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway FC were broke. The players had pawned their best suits in lieu of wages, the club owed £2,670 and creditors had opened bankruptcy proceedings. If you had to predict a future for the club, it would have been oblivion.

Enter John Henry Davies and the true pathfinder to the position where the club today is worth more than

£500m. The director of a brewery, how he became aware of the club's plight is wrapped in legend. The dog of Newton Heath's captain, Harry Stafford, is said to have strayed to Davies' home; on its return the subject of football cropped up, and a saviour was found.

Davies and Stafford bought the club, changed its name to Manchester United and its team colours from green and gold to red and white and profited to the tune of four players (including Billy Meredith) when local rivals Manchester City were found guilty of making illegal payments and ordered to transfer some of their football staff.

The rest is history? Not quite. United, who moved to Old Trafford

in 1910, won the Championship in 1907-8 and 1910-11 and the FA Cup in 1908, but by the 1930s their best appeared to be behind them. Promoted from the Second Division in 1936, they went down the following year and up again in 1938 and became known as the yo-yo club. Today's Sunderland would be a good comparison.

It was in February 1945, with the ground a bombed-out shell, that greatness finally arrived in the shape of a small Scot, Matt Busby, a half-back with Liverpool, had been offered a coaching job at Anfield but chose instead the manager's job at Old Trafford. The foundation stone of the Theatre of Dreams had been laid.

## Sinking warning amid a raft of statistics

Rothmans Rugby Union Annual 1998-99, edited by Mick Cleary and John Griffiths (Headline, £17.99, paperback). Allied Dunbar Playfair Rugby Union Annual, edited by Brendan Gallagher and Stuart Farmer (Headline, £4.99, paperback).

THE FIXTURE force which had tainted the new season even before it had begun, with matches on, off and out-laid, did no favours to the compilers of the game's reference books. So, although the fixture sections of these worthy volumes have to be taken in conjunction with daily-hourly even, judging by the way both sides shift their ground-checks in the media, they still carry

### BOOK OF THE WEEK

rafts of statistical and biographical information that the rugby fan will find invaluable.

As co-editor Mick Cleary said at the Rothmans launch: "We have introduced a new competition for readers – Fantasy Fixture League." It is not quite as bad as that, but at least someone can see some humour in the silly pre-season.

Rothmans has something of a head start, this being its 27th year; but Playfair has established itself as an essential complement to its big brother. There is enough that is

different between the two to make them a worthwhile joint buy.

In the past, Rothmans has not been able to carry a record of summer tours in its year of publication. Typically, this time around England's pitiful southern hemisphere slog beat the headlines, so the four Test defeats against Australia (a record 76-0 surrender), New Zealand (two defeats) and the 18-0 defeat in South Africa, are there in inglorious black and white.

So is pretty well every other representative match of significance last season. There are well documented international sections for all the major Test playing countries and the awards reflect Rothmans' global approach.

Their player of the year is the French prop Christian Calmano, introduced in Cleary's habitually wry fashion. Personality of the year is the New Zealand coach John Hart. The choice, Cleary pointed out, was made before the All Blacks slumped so dramatically.

Statistically, Rothmans is its usual exemplary self, with detailed club sections for all home countries, courtesy of its other co-editor, John Griffiths. Where the Playfair Annual scores over its stablemate is in the club section where hours of fact-finding have resulted in a superbly researched biographical and statistical background to every player in every club at the time of publication.

Unfortunately, for co-editors Brendan Gallagher and Stuart Farmer the transfer market does not acknowledge publishing deadlines, but nevertheless the majority of the players in Allied Dunbar Premiership are included.

Playfair's editorial carries a doom-laden warning as it attacks the war of words that has bedevilled the sport since the game went professional three years ago. "Everyone... must put aside... the mistrust and rancour which hangs over British rugby, particularly in England... this season or the game in the four home unions could slip into terminal decline," writes Gallagher.

DAVID LLEWELLYN

### THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Bobby Robson – My Autobiography – An Englishman Abroad (Macmillan, hardback, £16.99).
- 2 The Official NFL 1998 Record and Fact Book (Workman, paperback, £14.99).
- 3 Anything But... An Autobiography, Richie Benaud (Hodder & Stoughton, hardback, £17.99).
- 4 Rothmans Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Glenda Rollin (Headline, paperback, £17.99).
- 5 FA Carling Premiership Pocket Annual 1998-99, Bruce Smith (Virgin, paperback, £4.99).
- 6 Kick Off – The Official Premier League Fans' Guide 1998-99, edited by Mike Ivey (Sidon Press, paperback, £5.99).
- 7 News of the World Football Annual 1998-99, edited by Eric Brown (Invincible Press, paperback, £5.99).
- 8 My 1998 World Cup Story, Glenn Hoddle with David Davies (Andre Deutsch, hardback, £17.99).
- 9 Inside the All Blacks, Robin McConnell (Harper Collins NZ, hardback, £17.99).
- 10 The Paddy and The Prince – The Making of Naseem Hamed, Nick Pitt (Yellow Jersey, hardback, £16.00).

List compiled by Sportspages Bookshops 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240-9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832-8530) and [www.sportspages.co.uk](http://www.sportspages.co.uk)



# Chester and Clinch expose depleted Eagles

## RUGBY LEAGUE

By Dave Hadfield

Halifax 18  
Sheffield 16

THE FLUENT passing skills of their half-backs, Gavin Clinch and Chris Chester, ensured that, after their hiccup at St Helens last week, Halifax are once more securely on course for a top-three finish. Always in control against a side that has simply run out of players at the wrong time, Halifax were dangerous whenever they moved the ball out.

## Paul at the head of Wigan's procession

HENRY PAUL, who is leaving Wigan at the end of the season, provided a timely reminder of his skills with a man-of-the-match performance in the Warriors' 58-6 win over Hull.

The Kiwi stand-off scored two of his side's 12 tries as Wigan re-opened a two-point lead over Leeds at the top of Super League. Just under 8,000 - the lowest attendance of the season at Central Park - watched Steve Prescott kick the Sharks into a 2-0 lead before conceding the first try to Paul.

Jason Robinson and Lee Gilmour, pondering the offer of a two-year extension to his contract, also both touched down twice and Gary Connolly grabbed his 100th try for the club as the game turned into a procession.

The Sharks winger, Phil

Fortunately for a team that might have been expected to miss the injured Martin Moore, they had, in Clinch and Chester, players whose instinct was to open up play, starting with Chester's long pass to Des Clark, cleverly turned inside by the second-row man for David Bourvong to score.

Chester was again the provider for Bourvong in the 12th minute, before his run set up the position from which Clinch released Dailo Powell for the third try.

Clinch also sent Karl Harrison charging over for Halifax's fourth and they would have

been even more safely in the lead if Martin Pearson had kicked any of his goals. Clinch even showed him how that should be done, albeit with a drop goal, before half-time.

Sheffield, who went into the game with some hopes of still making fifth place, had their best period immediately after the break, culminating in Paul Carr's try. They were pushed firmly back in their place, however, by Halifax's South African winger Jamie Bloom, who scored the first of his hat-trick when Clinch and Chester moved the ball virtually the width of the field in two passes.

The over-stretching of the Eagles' resources was underlined when they packed down with their full-back, Walsale Sovataba, at prop, and their centre, Whetu Taewa, in the second row.

It was not long before Clinch initiated another attack from which Bloom again scored, Pearson at last landing his first goal.

Keith Senior got a Sheffield try that he deserved for his personal efforts before Clinch's educated hands sent Bloom away once more for another converted try.

The best that could be said of the depleted Eagles was they tried to stick to their hopeless task, Willie Morgan going over in the last minute, but a place in the play-offs now looks beyond them.

Halifax: Gibson, Bloom, Powell, Pearson, Bourvong, Chester, Clinch, Harrison, Roney, Smerrett, Mercer, Clark, Baldwin. Sheffield: Sovataba, Pinney, Taewa, Morgan, Sodie, Watson, Aaron, Laughon, Lawless, Shaw, Carr, Senior. Dailo: Smerrett, Mercer, Vassilakopoulos, Stephens, Wood, Cardozo. Referee: S. Cummings (Widnes).



Hull's David Stephenson fails to prevent Wigan's Henry Paul from going over the line yesterday during the Central Park side's 58-6 victory

# Coxless four lead the way for Britain

BY HUGH MATHESON  
in Cologne

THE BRITISH team shone in the opening heats of the World Championships here yesterday, with each crew placed as high as could be expected in pursuit of a place in the finals next weekend.

They were led, as usual, by the coxless four, who confirmed their position as world champions with a masterful display, winning a heat at 32 strokes to the minute and apparently 10 per cent below their maximum.

The single scullers each finished second. For Greg Searle and Guin Batten, this was a pleasant return to form. Neither had been seeded for a place and each had to beat a former champion to make it. For Searle, it was true to the script since 1991 to arrive at the Championships in great form after a season of underachievement by his own gold standard. Guin Batten has also struggled this year but looked assured in pushing the Henley winner, Maria Brandin, into third place.

In the lightweight event Peter Haining, the eloquent Scot who has won the world championship three times, must have been a little disappointed to finish behind James Martinez, of the United States. More worrying, Martinez gained an extra two seconds shortly after half way and although Haining raised the rate to 38 strokes to the minute he was unable to close the gap decisively.

The men's lightweight eight have dominated in Europe throughout the season but succumbed in the heats to the

only crew they have not met. The United States finished with a quarter length of clear water. Jason Keys, the stroke, said it was soggy from the start and the eight never found the rhythm the earlier races had shown. The race times confirmed that his crew had rowed badly rather than the United States been unexpectedly good. In the other heat, crews normally behind the British had quicker finish times.

The women's pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop, who started the season well only to unravel slightly at Lucerne, looked out of sorts in the first half of their heat, slipping back to fourth place at 1,000m. However, when they put in their trademark final push they closed up on the Canadian world champions and set the second fastest time of the event.

The women's double scull justified their seeding, despite making only one appearance this year and won a fine heat, leading in a new Romanian crew, who might yet pose a threat come the final on Saturday.

The men's pair and double scull, both novice crews at this level, pushed up to good third places and earned themselves an easier run through the repechage system tomorrow. Seville has pipped Munich and Milan in the race to stage the 2002 World Championships. Fisa, the international rowing federation, awarded the event to the Spanish city by a majority decision. It will be the first time Spain has staged a rowing world championships. Fisa also named Duisburg in Germany and Trakai in Lithuania as the host cities for the 2001 and 2002 World Junior Championships.

# Dooohan cuts deficit

## MOTORCYCLING

MICHAEL DOOHAN swept to his third consecutive San Marino 500cc Grand Prix victory yesterday to set up the closest ever run-in in the world championship. The Australian won in 46min 00.092sec from Spain's Alex Criville in second and Italy's Max Biaggi in third.

"It's certainly a special track for me," the four-times world champion said. "It's not a horsepower circuit. It's not about power, it's about flicking the bike around on the bumps and corners. It's a track I like."

Dooohan's victory over his Honda team-mate, Criville, leaves the championship wide open. With four rounds to go Biaggi still leads the standings on 188 points but is now just four points clear of Dooohan and seven ahead of Criville.

The World Superbike championship is heading for a thrilling finale after wins for Carl Fogarty and Pier-Francesco Chili in round 11 yesterday at Assen in the Netherlands.

A total of six points separate leader Troy Corser, second-placed Aaron Slight and Foga-

rtly, who is in third, with one round to go, at Sugo in Japan on 4 October.

Chili won yesterday's opening race after passing Fogarty on the last of the 16 laps to secure his fifth win of the season on a Ducati. Corser finished third after taking an early lead while Slight was fourth on the Honda.

Fogarty won the second race after Chili crashed out on the last corner. Slight was second and Corser third. A mere half-point now separates Corser from Slight in the championship standings.

Results, Digest, page 21

# McGwire and Sosa set to make history

## BASEBALL

By Rupert Cornwell

THROUGHOUT THE season they have tracked each other. Tonight Mark McGwire, of the St. Louis Cardinals, and the Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa go head-to-head in a two-game series which could witness the demise of the most famous record in American sport.

On Saturday night, against the Cincinnati Reds, McGwire clubbed his 60th home run of the season, to equal Babe Ruth's feat in 1927 and bring him within one of tying Roger Maris' record of 61, which has survived for 37 years. Sosa, meanwhile, smashed his third homer in four games, to lift his season's total to 58, a feat achieved by only five others in baseball history.

Conceivably the record could have already gone, in yesterday's third face-off between the Cardinals and the Reds. But there would be no more fitting moment than tonight or tomorrow, when the two hitters, whose contest has

made baseball the national pastime once more, slug it out face-to-face in Busch Stadium St. Louis.

"It's unbelievable, what can you say?" said a relaxed McGwire after smiting No. 60. "Without a doubt, the fans are coming back. What's happening with myself and Sosa has brought baseball back, and it's brought America together."

Their exploits are all the more remarkable in that both play in the National League, where the pitchers are regarded as better, and the stadium is larger, than in the rival American League, where both Maris and Ruth played for the New York Yankees.

The two Cardinals/Cubs games have long been sold out, and tickets are exchanging for a fortune on the black market. But the really big memorabilia money is yet to be made. A businessman enthusiast has reportedly offered \$1m (\$500,000) for the ball which goes for the 62nd homer - guaranteeing an instant fortune for the fan sitting in the right seat at the right moment.

## SPORTS BETTING

# Leeds should make Southampton suffer

By Ian Davies

LEEDS UNITED, who have made a solid enough start to the season, should make short work of struggling Southampton in their Premiership game at Elland Road tomorrow night.

The Division One champions Nottingham Forest, who have made a bright start to their Premiership campaign, are fancied to contain the out-of-form Everton, who look set for another difficult season.

On Wednesday, Aston Villa, who impressed at Sheffield Wednesday, should overwhelm Newcastle, who caved in tamely at home to Liverpool recently, at Villa Park.

The encounter between Chelsea and Arsenal at Stamford Bridge seems destined to end in a draw. It would also come as no surprise to see mid-table types Derby and Sheffield Wednesday fight out a draw at Pride Park and old rivals Leicester and Middlesbrough may also draw at Filbert Street.

Liverpool, fancied in this neck of the woods at 7-1 to win the title when the season started, should be too strong for

Coventry City at Anfield, while Manchester United should bring Charlton down to earth at Old Trafford.

Blackburn can capitalise on Spurs' problems, while the game between the West Ham and Wimbledon at Upton Park could be another draw.

MATCH BETTING				
Team	C	H	A	S
Leeds	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Southampton	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Everton	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Newcastle	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Derby	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leicester	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leeds	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Southampton	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
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Leicester	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
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Derby	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leicester	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leeds	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Southampton	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Everton	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Newcastle	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Derby	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leicester	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
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Everton	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Newcastle	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Derby	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leicester	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leeds	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Southampton	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Everton	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Newcastle	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Derby	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leicester	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leeds	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Southampton	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Everton	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Newcastle	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Derby	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leicester	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Leeds	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Southampton	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Everton	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Newcastle	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Derby	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
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Southampton	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
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Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Newcastle	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
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Derby	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
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Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
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Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
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Sheff Wed	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
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Southampton	12.5	5.5	1.2	2.7
Nottingham Forest	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7
Everton	5.5	1.2	2.7	1.2
Aston Villa	1.2	5.5	12.5	2.7







**Bards:** Triles Patten, Guscott 2; **Conversions:** Cott 3; **Penalties:** Cott 5, Wharfedale 3; **Triles:** Logan, Leota, Worsley; **Penalties:** Rees 4.

**Baths:** 1. Balshouse, 1. Evans, P. de Garmville (capt.), J. Guscott (K. Maggs, 80), A. Adebayo; M. Carr, 5. Hatfield (A. Nicol, 77); O. Hilton (K. Yates, 59), M. Regan (A. Long, 30); V. Ubogu, M. Haag, N. Redman, N. Thomas, E. Peters, B. Sturmhenn.

**Wingers:** 1. Leawsey, S. Roiser, N. Greenstock (capt.), R. Hendriksen, D. Logan; G. Reed, M. A. (A. Gornall, 56); O. Malloy (A. Black, 56).

**Fullbacks:** 1. Leota, W. Green, M. Weedon (capt.), A. Reed, E. Rollitt, J. Worsley, P. Volley.

**Halfbacks:** B. Smith (capt.).







NatWest Trophy final: Red rose day as Wasim's one-day kings prove too strong for disappointing Derbyshire

# Lancashire take a trophy stroll

BY DEREK PRINGLE  
at Lord'sDerbyshire 108  
Lancashire 109-1  
Lancashire win by 9 wickets

LANCASHIRE continued their long and happy dalliance with 60-over cricket by beating Derbyshire in yesterday's NatWest final here. With part one of their treble ambitions in the bag they can now go home to Old Trafford, knowing that a win today against Hampshire in the AXA League will secure them their second trophy of the season.

This was their seventh title and, with just 109 runs to chase, one of their easiest. When the winning run came on the stroke of one o'clock, only 30.2 overs had been bowled, the fewest ever taken to win a September final. Small consolation for paying spectators perhaps, but a satisfying one for the Lancashire captain, Wasim Akram, now in his last season with the club he joined 10 years ago as a 21-year-old.

Apparently, Wasim, now at the end of a six-year contract has known all along that this was likely to be his last season. With the World Cup certain to affect most overseas players next summer, Lancashire have been looking for a player - allegedly an off-spinner - not involved in the contest, to take his place.

However, now that the hot tip appears to be Muttiah Muralitharan, a man whose involvement with the holders Sri Lanka is written in stone, Wasim is claiming that Lancashire have moved the goalposts. If, as looks likely, they are going to sign someone involved in next year's one-day extravaganza, then why not him. Lancashire are keeping mum, which suggests moves to sign an alternative are already far advanced to pull the plug.

Before taking his two wickets, Wasim's most significant contribution to Lancashire's cause was to win the toss. Long regarded as the showpiece of the one-day competition, the early start has more often than not rendered the side losing the toss almost exclusively consigned to batting first in seamer-friendly conditions.

Unsurprisingly, this match proved no different, though with Derbyshire's slender resources a factor, part loss part draw would perhaps be a better assessment of the factors that led to such a rout.

In fact, Derbyshire batsmen were unfortunate on two counts and the 4.30pm start on the first day after the pitch had spent many hours sweating under the hazy cover, followed by the 10.30 start yesterday, ef-



Ian Austin, who took 3 for 14, is mobbed by his Lancashire team-mates after bowling Derbyshire's Robin Weston for a duck at Lord's

Peter Jay

fectively consigned them to two testing periods against the moving ball.

With Lancashire's seam and swing kings eventually settling after a jittery start, it was to prove a hurdle too large, particularly for a side barely half filled with cricketers of substance. Resuming from their overnight position of 92 for 7, Derbyshire lasted another 27 balls, a late flurry of fours from Vince Clarke the sole act of defiance as they were dismissed for 108.

So often the stage for the peacocks to strut their stuff, Lord's was treated to the unobtrusive skills of the largely unsung Ian Austin. Peter Martin, who finished with 4 for 19, may have bowled more unplayable balls, but it is Austin's unflappable way of doing the basics well which conjures up the term "a professional job well done".

Indeed, Austin, whose 3 for 14 won him the man of the match award, should really come stamped with the BSI kitemark. When Lancashire's supporters began singing "There are only two Ian Austins," they could have just as easily been celebrating his consistency, as his substantial hulk.

A solid performer with a character to match, it was Austin's accuracy that broke the dangerous early stand between Kim Barnett and Michael Slater after the pair threatened to overturn Lancashire's advantage of winning the toss.

Slater began brightly for a man who had just spent most of previous 90 hours in the air - he was returning from Australia's training camp for the Commonwealth Games - until he played around one that nipped back down the Lord's

slope. Having struck Glenn Chappell for six over extra cover, his wicket was a crucial one and it effectively stopped Derbyshire in their tracks. They collapsed from 70 for 0 to 92 for 7 in the 125 minutes of play available.

Requiring something of a minor miracle with the bat from their captain, Dominic Cork, when they resumed yesterday, Derbyshire instead fell to earth. Instead of Martin and Austin wreaking mayhem, it was Wasim and Andy Flintoff who took the three remaining wickets.

Defending a target as modest as 108 is virtually impossible without the catalysing effect of early wickets. Derbyshire should have had one, too, and they have only themselves to blame after Michael Atherton's edged dab off Cork flew at catchable height between first and second slip.

But if Cork eventually had

his revenge, clean bowling Atherton with a beauty from the Pavilion End for 10, the experience of bowlers like Kevin Dean kept the pressure from building on Lancashire.

Dean, a left-arm swing bowler, fed John Crawley's leg-side strengths, while giving the left-handed Neil Fairbrother plenty of width to swing his bat. Still one of the best one-day batsmen in England, Fairbrother is still not averse to accepting charity and a quartet of beautifully executed drives clanged into the cover fence.

In a match in which the bat had almost total dominion over the ball, the 38 runs Dean conceded from five overs was a luxury too many and by the time Matthew Cassar came on to hasten the conclusion as well as cakewalk Crawley to his fifty the game was up. By then though, the pretenders had long stopped pretending.

## Secret lies in the swing

BY HENRY BLOFELD

IT WAS an extraordinary afternoon. Lancashire had won an important toss, but were amazed to find Derbyshire had 50 runs on the board without loss after 13 overs bowled under a clear sky. Then, the clouds blew in, the ball began to swing, and soon Lancashire took seven wickets for 11 runs in 55 balls.

The bowlers first had the encouragement of Michael Slater being leg before playing across the line, and then a rather lazy stroke by Kim Barnett, turning 70 for 0 into 70 for 2.

Ian Austin and Peter Martin each had the confidence of a wicket and now, as the sun disappeared, Martin began to wobble the ball alarmingly. The cloud induced vital swing as the young and inexperienced, but talented, Derbyshire middle order let the pressure get to them.

They forgot it was a 60-over match, which allows the batsman to play normal cricket for longer than usual in the one-day game. They now were consumed with the urge to get a move on, deceived perhaps, by the apparent ease of Slater and Barnett's start and not helped by the wretched clouds.

A satisfactory definitive answer to the age-old nagging question, why does the ball swing, has never been found. Over the years it has been addressed by learned professors, humble seam bowlers, armchair wafflers and just about everyone in-between. The answer is probably a little bit of this and a little bit of that.

Clouds are one ingredient, humidity is another, the different properties of each new ball - out of a box of six, three may swing and three may not - and the peculiar ability of some bowlers to see them labelled as natural swingers.

All these factors play a part, and I am talking about orthodox swing, not reverse swing, which relies on weighting one side of an old ball with sweat so it is tugged by the atmosphere.

The ball swung on Saturday, but on Sunday when the clouds were higher, it went straight on, and Kevin Dean, Derbyshire's left arm seamer, who has swung it all over the place this summer, could not move it an inch and panicked. Ask Gloucestershire's Mike Smith, what makes it swing and he will tell you without hesitation that it is the ball. You pays your money... but Derbyshire lost the toss.

### SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S

Lancashire won toss				
DERBYSHIRE				
M Slater lbw b Austin	34	0	1	24
70 min, 62 balls, 3 fours, 1 six				
KJ Barnett b Martin	23	0	1	17
76 min, 55 balls, 1 four				
AS Rollins c Flintoff b Martin	1	0	1	1
14 min, 10 balls				
RMS Weston b Austin	0	0	1	5
5 min, 4 balls				
M E Cassar c Chappell b Austin	0	0	1	5
27 min, 18 balls, 1 five				
B Lee c Slater b Martin	0	0	1	5
17 min, 10 balls				
DG Cork c Hegg b Wasim	5	0	1	5
39 min, 34 balls				
PAJ DeFreitas lbw b Martin	0	0	1	5
3 min, 2 balls				
NH Fairbrother c Hegg b Flintoff	2	0	1	5
33 min, 16 balls				
VJ Clarke b Wasim	13	0	1	5
10 min, 7 balls, 3 fours				
PJ Dean not out	0	0	1	5
4 min, 6 balls				
Extras (b5, w7, nb8)	20			
Total (25.4 overs)	108			
Derbyshire 108 (25.4 overs)				
Falls: 1-70 (Slater), 2-70 (Barnett), 3-70 (Rollins), 4-71 (Weston), 5-81 (Slater), 6-81 (DeFreitas), 7-81 (Cork), 8-81 (Cork), 9-81 (Cork), 10-81 (Cork), 11-81 (Cork), 12-81 (Cork), 13-81 (Cork), 14-81 (Cork), 15-81 (Cork), 16-81 (Cork), 17-81 (Cork), 18-81 (Cork), 19-81 (Cork), 20-81 (Cork), 21-81 (Cork), 22-81 (Cork), 23-81 (Cork), 24-81 (Cork), 25-81 (Cork), 26-81 (Cork), 27-81 (Cork), 28-81 (Cork), 29-81 (Cork), 30-81 (Cork), 31-81 (Cork), 32-81 (Cork), 33-81 (Cork), 34-81 (Cork), 35-81 (Cork), 36-81 (Cork), 37-81 (Cork), 38-81 (Cork), 39-81 (Cork), 40-81 (Cork), 41-81 (Cork), 42-81 (Cork), 43-81 (Cork), 44-81 (Cork), 45-81 (Cork), 46-81 (Cork), 47-81 (Cork), 48-81 (Cork), 49-81 (Cork), 50-81 (Cork), 51-81 (Cork), 52-81 (Cork), 53-81 (Cork), 54-81 (Cork), 55-81 (Cork), 56-81 (Cork), 57-81 (Cork), 58-81 (Cork), 59-81 (Cork), 60-81 (Cork), 61-81 (Cork), 62-81 (Cork), 63-81 (Cork), 64-81 (Cork), 65-81 (Cork), 66-81 (Cork), 67-81 (Cork), 68-81 (Cork), 69-81 (Cork), 70-81 (Cork), 71-81 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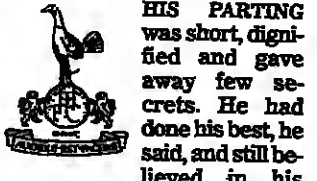


John's in 150

Tottenham in turmoil: Coach departs with head held high as chairman blames media for sacking

# Gross: 'I was not a failure'

BY ANDREW WARSHAW



HIS PARTING was short, dignified and gave away few secrets. He had done his best, he said, and still believed in his methods. After 10 months in charge of Tottenham Hotspur, Christian Gross gave the media a final 10 minutes of his time yesterday.

Then, after a farewell press conference, he shook hands with his now former chairman, Alan Sugar, and drove his green Mercedes out of the Spurs training ground for the last time.

Gross tried his best to hide the pain. It indeed he was feeling any. He insisted, as he had done many times before, that he was no quitter.

"I had to go," he said. Why, he was asked. "Different reasons," came the cryptic reply. "I am a man who is not going to answer exactly that question."

He also refused to admit that he had been a failure after being sacked for the first time in his managerial career, with eight months of his contract still to run.

"I am disappointed, but I do not think this experience was a failure," Gross said. "I came here in November in a very difficult and serious situation. We were not relegated. That was a big success. I think three games of this season was not long enough to judge me. I had been looking forward to the home games against Blackburn and Middlesbrough."

"This is the first time results have not gone well for me but I have to deal with this in a positive way and I will do so."

Whether you feel sympathy with Gross or believe, as most Spurs fans do, that he had it coming, few Premiership managers have had such a baptism of fire. Indeed, Gross had been showing signs of late that he was getting to grips with one of the toughest coaching jobs in the country.

He admitted, however, that it had been frustrating being unable to strengthen the squad with big-name players, mentioning Patrick Kluivert as a case in point. But the squad he inherited, he said, was just getting used to his measures.

"I bought in a new way of doing things and the players are used to it now. It has become a question of habit." Sadly no more.

Sugar, who refused to discuss Gross's successor, used the usual scapegoat to justify getting rid of the balding Swiss.

"We were faced with an untenable situation created, with all due respect, by the media," he said. "The board felt that Christian, no matter how professional or how good he is, had been destroyed."

Sugar, clad in jeans and denim shirt in contrast to Gross's usual conservative shirt and tie, indicated the decision to sack his manager was taken in principle before Tottenham's 1-0 win over Everton. Sugar repeated a number of times that it was no knee-jerk reaction.

"From the outside world it will look as if Christian was only given three games, but I digested the situation and would not be rushed into anything," said Sugar. "I have been frank with Christian throughout. The point is, the butt stops with me. I was the one who ultimately made the decision to bring Christian to England and ultimately I am the one that has decided what I consider to be in the interest of both parties. You have to make a rational decision for both people's good, not just for Tottenham but also for his good and the backstop here."

Gross is likely to have no shortage of offers from the continent where, paradoxically, he is highly regarded after taking Grasshopper Zurich to within a whisker of qualifying for the Champions' League quarter-finals after back-to-back titles with the Swiss club. For the moment, he said he will be spending a few more weeks in England "watching football".

"At the end of the day, the club is the most important thing," Gross said. "I feel I have left the team in the best mood. I can. Otherwise we would not have got that excellent result against Everton."

He declined to give details of alleged communication breakdowns with players. "I am used to working hard and sometimes there were discussions. The main target was always to improve. I was fair to everyone. Direct but fair."

Gross left with the same words he had used at countless post-match press conferences. "I have my way. I am convinced it is the right way."

Clearly neither Sugar nor the majority of Spurs fans agree. Only time will tell whether Gross would eventually have proved an inspired choice or whether he was after all, hopelessly out of his depth.



Alan Sugar (left), the Tottenham chairman, and Christian Gross, his departing head coach, face the press yesterday

## The wrong man for the job

BY STEVE TONGUE

AS GLENN HODDLE reminded us last week, modern football is a results business. It was equally unfortunate that Christian Gross, in his first interview after agreeing to join Tottenham from the Swiss champions Grasshopper, should offer the same hostage to fortune by suggesting: "The only way I can prove who I am is with results."

His new employers might have warned him at that stage that Tottenham followers, raised, according to their generation, on the glory game of Blanchflower and White, Hoddle himself and Ardiles, Gascoigne and Waddle, tended to demand something more. But chairman Alan Sugar's grasp of the club's traditions has often appeared to be on the hazy side of vague.

Having fallen out with Terry Venables, the last Spurs manager to win anything, then tired of Ossie Ardiles' idealism and Gerry Francis' reign - neither tasty fish nor functional fowl - Sugar became convinced that the best way of keeping up with the neighbours at the other end of Seven Sisters Road was by copying them. A foreign manager - Ardiles, more one of the family, hardly counted - was perceived to be the panacea and feelers were put out.

Quite who did the feeling and how far and wide they probed has never been admitted though the name of Jurgen Klinsmann's agent, Andy Gross, is a recurrent one. However deep, or otherwise, the football knowledge on the board of Tottenham Hotspur plc, the revelation that Gross's namesake Christian was the chosen one must in any case have caused an eyebrow or two to be raised. It is easy to see why the views and attitude that Gross projected at interview appealed to Sugar. The two words that summed up his beliefs were those that he uttered most frequently throughout his initial news conference less than ten months ago, flanked by pictures of former White Hart Lane heroes in the Bill Nicholson Suite. "Teamwork! Discipline!" he barked at regular intervals that day, in rather alarming manner and in an accent unfortunately reminiscent of actors hammering it up in bad war films.

Whatever the accent, this was music to the ears of the chairman, who it is easy to imagine squirming every time he signs a cheque to or for an overpaid and overpriced superstar. It was Sugar, after all, who confessed publicly that he was having to pay far too much to secure Les Ferdinand from Newcastle United.

The media, whom he now blames, perversely, for the Gross demise, played up exactly the image that the club wanted to put across. "I will sort out Spurs' softies" was a typical tabloid headline, while "Gross ready to crack the whip at Tottenham" must have had Sugar's firm approval. "Christian's credentials shone through," he told the same conference. "There is a great need for discipline. From that you will get your spirit, that's what we need."

The new man, having studied videos of every Tottenham

match thus far that season, had concluded that the players were not fit enough, and expressed surprise that they suffered so many injuries, singling out Ramon Vega, with whom he had previously worked, and Darren Anderson. Sitting alongside him was Fritz Schmid, the intended new fitness trainer, whose failure to obtain a work permit proved to be the first of many plans to go awry.

Watching a 1-0 home defeat by Crystal Palace, who were to finish the season bottom of the table, showed Gross how much there was to do, a 2-0 win at Everton in his first match in charge offered immediate hope that the players would at least be trying for him.

Folding up in a 6-1 home defeat by Chelsea a week later had supporters wondering whether that was the case at all, and by the end of the campaign all that had been achieved was to avoid

relegation along with Palace. Sixteenth the day Gross arrived, Tottenham ended up two places higher, almost entirely thanks to Klinsmann's goals as the situation grew serious towards the finish.

The German scored 50 per cent more goals than anyone else, despite having rejoined the club only in December. But by March he had announced his intention of leaving once the season was over after a row with Gross over tactics, which raised the important question of whether he was entitled to any input in such matters.

It was a split that cost Gross more goodwill from supporters who, with their increased access to the media and the effect that can have on share prices, now exert greater influence than ever before. Most seemed prepared to see what Gross, now assisted by David Pleat as technical director, could come up with in terms of summer transfers and what sort of a team that might mean this season. The side boomed off after the first two games, with one new but little-known Italian full-back, was not quite what they had in mind. The great foreign adventure, they believed, had brought them a Jo Venglos, not an Arsene Wenger.

Keeping up with the Monsieur Joneses by simply stealing their ideas had not worked. Why would it and why should it have done?

### GROSS: FROM GRASSHOPPER TO GOODBYE SPURS

1997: November: Appointed Tottenham manager following the resignation of Gerry Francis. Suffers unhappy start to his spell in charge at White Hart Lane as side struggle to move away from relegation fight. December: Responds to a 6-1 defeat at home to Chelsea by bringing Jurgen Klinsmann back to White Hart Lane. The German's contract stipulates that he cannot be dropped. 1998: February: Spurs knocked

out of the FA Cup by Barnsley in the third round.

March: Public dispute with Klinsmann. "I have totally different views about the way we should play," says the German.

May: Secures Premiership safety with 6-2 victory at Wimbledon in the penultimate match of the season.

June: Signs the unknown Italian defender Paolo Tramezzani from Piacenza for £1.35m - his only summer signing.

August: Angry Spurs supporters protest outside White Hart Lane after second game of the season (3-0 defeat by Sheffield Wednesday). Win third game, 1-0 at Everton.

September 5: Spurs announce his departure. Record: Premiership: Played 26; Won 9; Drawn 7; Lost 10; Goals for 35; Against 41; Points 34. FA Cup: Played 3; Won 1; Drawn 1; Lost 1.

## Woodhall admits he was lucky

BOXING  
BY DAVID FIELD

RICHIE WOODHALL wore the expression of a condemned man rather than one who had got out of jail - Glenn Catley's countenance befitted a person who had invested his life savings in the Russian roulette.

For Woodhall there was clearly little satisfaction in his statistical triumph over Catley in the first defence of the World Boxing Council super-middleweight championship at the Telford Ice Rink on Saturday. He admitted: "I thought [Catley] nicked it."

In contrast, Catley could take much pride from his title effort - but not the title he thought he had earned. "I was told 500 times after I left the ring that I'd been robbed," he said. The fortunate champion boxed far below his best on the way to a 116-113, 115-113, 114-114 verdict. On this form he would stand little chance in a unification bout against the World Boxing Organisation champion Joe Calzaghe.

## Tait shows his true pedigree

EQUESTRIANISM  
BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY at Burghley

SIXTH TAIT could forget all about disappointing dressage marks yesterday when he rode Chesterfield and Aspyring into first and second places on the final day of the Burghley Pedigree Chum Horse Trials and collected £36,000. A fellow New Zealander, Mark Todd, who filled the top two places here in 1987, is the only other rider to

achieve this result in the contest's 37 years.

Tait, who had considered withdrawing Chesterfield after the dressage, took the horse from equal 12th to first on Saturday after a splendid round over the soggy cross-country course. Yesterday he jumped one of only four clear show-jumping rounds to win by a commanding margin.

This was the first Burghley victory for the great New Zealand horseman, who currently holds the Olympic,

British and Scottish championships and will be aiming to regain the world title in Italy next month.

Two other Kiwis - Andrew Nicholson on Himegar and Daniel Jocelyn on Silence - underlined their nation's strength by filling third and fifth places. Jancis Tulloch, the best of the British, was fourth on Bally Free.

"I came here dreaming of finishing in the top 10," Tulloch said. She had the fastest cross-country time on Saturday and

felt that Bally Free was feeling the effects of his exertions when he had three show-jumps down and dropped one place yesterday. But the dream was more than fulfilled.

Katie Parker finished sixth on Cornish Envoy who, like Bally Free, had been short-listed for the World Games in Rome.

BRIDGEMAN PENELOPE CHUM HORSE TRIALS (Burghley, Leicestershire) Final positions: 1 Chesterfield (S. Tait, NZ) 67.8 penalties; 2 Aspyring (S. Tait, NZ) 82.0; 3 Himegar (A. Nicholson, NZ) 82.0; 4 Bally Free (J. Tulloch, GB) 95.8; 5 Silence (D. Jocelyn, NZ) 101.0; 6 Cornish Envoy (K. Parker, GB) 103.0.

## Thomas sights fixed on \$50,000 cash bonus

ATHLETICS  
BY IAN GORDON in Moscow

IWAN THOMAS yesterday vowed to win maximum points for Britain in next week's World Cup in Johannesburg - and collect \$50,000 (£31,000) for himself.

Thomas missed out on the same cash prize in Saturday's 400m at the Grand Prix final in Moscow, when Mark Richardson avenged his European

Championship defeat by beating the Welshman into third place. But Thomas insisted he could aid the injury-ravaged British team's cause in South Africa by winning his individual event, as well as boosting his own bank balance.

"I'm going to win \$50,000 in Johannesburg - I promise you that," said the 24-year-old European gold medalist.

Thomas will face American Jerome Young, who denied him an extra \$10,000 by taking second place here, though both

were given the same time of 44.96 seconds. "I was sure I got second place," said Thomas, who picked up \$20,000. "It is a bit of a pain missing out on the extra cash, but I can make up for that in South Africa."

Richardson will now start favourite to win the Commonwealth crown after picking himself up from the confidence-shattering defeat by Thomas in Hungary.

The 26-year-old from Windsor will head off to Malaysia in a few days to acclimatise, while

his rival faces another 400m test in the World Cup - plus the relay - then a gruelling flight from Johannesburg.

"I want to do well in the Commonwealths to prove I am a championship runner," said Richardson, after finishing third in the Europeans.

Pulled out of meetings in Brussels, Berlin and Glasgow by his management as they restored his confidence on the training track, Richardson returned in style, with victory in 44.88 seconds.

## Masterful Struver seals win at 18th

GOLF  
BY NORMAN DABELL in Crans-sur-Sierre

SVEN STRUVER of Germany twice turned up trumps at the 18th hole on his way to landing the European Masters title yesterday.

Struver initially had a birdie on the last hole to force a play off with Swede Patrik Sjolund then produced another birdie on the 18th - the first eagle hole of sudden-death - to win the tournament.

Both Struver and Sjolund had finished on 21-under par 263, two shots ahead of playing partner Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland, after carding 66 and 70 respectively.

Struver had started the last round four shots behind the Swede but wiped out the deficit by following up his two eagle twos on the third round with another on the 290-yard seventh.

A drive onto the green guarded by the Matterhorn put the squeeze on Sjolund by the Swede, despite missing three short birdie putts, the moved three shots away from Struver with three successive birdies from the ninth.

However, with the finishing line in sight, Sjolund faltered with two more bogeys and was caught again. Even then, he edged back one in front with birdie at the 17th.

Yet Struver was not to be denied, seizing a birdie at the 18th and when he and Sjolund faced 10-foot putts at the first extra hole, it was the German's white went to ground.

"I've never won in a sudden death before so it's a good way to add my third title," said Struver, the son of a teaching pro. "I came from seven shot behind Ernie Els to win my first SAPGA Championship, so that was pretty memorable but this was real excitement."

"I thought I'd need to shoot 63 or 64 to beat Patrik and wouldn't have thought 66 was good enough, but the key was definitely the 18th. I played 15 times altogether and birdied it four times."

Three missed putts around the five-foot mark were fore getting back on a roll, and then failure to master the last-put-fives, cost Sjolund his second win of the year.

"Sadly I couldn't hole short putts on six, seven and eight which just shaved the hole and the back nine par-five were the key to losing in the end," said the Swede.

Clarke birdied four of the last five holes, but a double-bogey on the short third denied him his chance of a play-off, and the £50,000 he earned was not enough for him to top the European rankings.

That was because England's Lee Westwood closed with a 68 to earn a share of 12th place and keep Clarke £5,498 short of overtaking him.

Colin Montgomerie would have been overtaken for third place in the rankings if Sjolund had prevailed, but the Scot kept his spot, despite double bogeying the last for the second day running, also to share 12th.

EUROPE'S WEEKLY AMERICAN FOOTBALL NEWSPAPER

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# Young and old make an impact

BY PETER LANSLEY

Birmingham City 1  
Bury 0

ANDREW JOHNSON was still in nappies when Bruce Grobbelaar won the first of his six League Championships with Liverpool 16 years ago. Now, as the latest speedy teenager to be saddled with the 'new Michael Owen' epithet prepares to be thrown into Birmingham's injury-stricken attack for his first league start, the clown prince of goalkeepers is wondering whether his 742nd senior appearance was his last.

Grobbelaar won more major trophies in his Arsenal career, which started precisely 30 days after Johnson was born in 1981, than these two clubs in their entire histories put together. And, even nudging 41 years of age, the Bury stand-in suggested, on his one-day sabbatical from Hyman League duty, that he is still a highly capable goalkeeper. But on Saturday he was merely deputising for the Republic of Ireland's reserve custodian Dean Kiely, and he cannot find regular work in the Nationwide League.

Johnson, by contrast, looks about to enjoy more first-class employment than expected. Dele Adebola was injured while colliding with Grobbelaar in scoring Birmingham's winner, his sixth of the season and the first Bury have conceded in 574 minutes of doughty League action. Adebola then hobbled away to a congested treatment table to give Johnson his home debut.

Now Trevor Francis, himself once the teenage prodigy of St Andrew's, is considering unleashing the England Under-18 call-up on Stockport County tomorrow night. "Young Andrew (echoes of the teenager eulogies favoured by coaches these days) had a very good second half, with his pace and movement," said the Birmingham manager. "I have a problem now, as I may be without my three top goalscorers if Dele's calf doesn't respond. But, if I have to start with

Andrew, I will be quite happy to do so."

Johnson has been likened to Owen by Birmingham's director of youth Brian Eastick, and against Bury he showed good touch, pace and, in bringing the save of the match from an overworked Grobbelaar, a powerful shot. But this was his second hit-part appearance. Afterwards, the 5ft 4in former Luton schoolboy was quizzed about his similarities to Owen. Please... give the lad a break. Let the comparisons wait until he has done something.

Grobbelaar, meanwhile, is not the new anybody: he is simply the old Grobbelaar. Unfamiliar team-mates ahead of him huffed and puffed, then eventually kicked and elbowed to try and get back into a shapeless game, and were fortunate only Andy Woodward was sent off, after he tripped Steve Robinson. The Zimbabwean veteran, who currently earns £200 a game with Chesham United, was meanwhile in sharp form.

"I haven't lost my agility and when you get to my age the first 10 yards is in your head. I'm not as good as I once was, but I'm as good as I ever was," he said, with a conviction suggesting zen-like wisdom. "It's better playing in front of big crowds, because with the small crowds you can hear what they are saying."

"I'm still hungry and I hope I've done myself justice today. If I don't get back into the League this way, I might try management." If Kiely is required by Ireland again next month, Grobbelaar might well be available. If Johnson is still involved for Birmingham, then his early promise will be worth evaluating.

**Goalkeepers:** Grobbelaar (19) 1-0. **Defence:** Grobbelaar (19) 1-0. **Midfielders:** Grobbelaar (19) 1-0. **Forwards:** Grobbelaar (19) 1-0. **Substitutes:** Grobbelaar (19) 1-0. **Referee:** Grobbelaar (19) 1-0. **Attendance:** 15,935. **Man of the match:** Grobbelaar.



Familiar faces in unfamiliar places: Bruce Grobbelaar (left), the former Liverpool goalkeeper, now turning out for Bury and Notts County respectively



## Allison keeps the ball rolling

BY PHIL ANDREWS

Huddersfield Town 1  
Sheffield United 0

IT HAS been quite a start for the Huddersfield manager Peter Jackson. Before he took over last season, the Terriers were the First Division's bottom dogs. Christmas cards were on the mantelpiece before their points tally reached double figures and they were giving Yorkshire neighbours Doncaster a run for their money as the Football League's hottest relegation favourites.

Then along came Jackson to start a transformation which shows every sign of continuing this season. Double figures have been achieved in the first week of September and his side sit proudly in a play-off spot.

Early days, of course, and not something to get carried away by in a town whose older inhabitants can still remember their team winning the League Championship three years on the trot, but quite a start for a tyro manager.

Town owe their success this season to a solid defence and the striking partnership of Marcus Stewart and Wayne Allison, who have now scored nine goals between them. Not that this was obvious until Allison scored two minutes from time with a shot off the underside of the crossbar.

Until then, his propensity for getting underneath the ball had seen two decent chances end up in Row Z of the stand, while Stewart's tendency was to steer his opportunities wide.

"They are a double act," Jackson said. "Stewart gets most of the praise, but Allison takes a lot of stick and creates chances for him, so it is nice to see him getting on the score sheet."

Steve Bruce's introduction to management has been less happy. Having discovered, as most Blades managers do, that Bramall Lane is not paved with gold, he is now struggling to live up to great expectations with a squad short of the strength in depth required to reach the play-offs for the third successive year.

They battled manfully in a scrappy match but the nearest they came to depriving Huddersfield goalkeeper Nico Vascen of his first clean sheet was an audacious Bobby Ford chip from the half-way line that skimmed the crossbar.

Bruce was unhappy at having to play this match when international commitments (Dean Saunders and Vas Borbokis) added insult to a lengthy injury list. "If Huddersfield had been deprived of their two best players, they would have wanted it postponed too," he said.

That is debatable. Jackson's sixth-placed side are on a roll he may not want to interrupt even if his squad ran to the history of international players.

**Goalkeepers:** Allison (18) 1-0. **Defence:** Allison (18) 1-0. **Midfielders:** Allison (18) 1-0. **Forwards:** Allison (18) 1-0. **Substitutes:** Allison (18) 1-0. **Referee:** Allison (18) 1-0. **Attendance:** 12,192.

## McMahon ends misery run

BY JON CULLEY

Swindon Town 3  
Bristol City 2

IT WAS an agonising afternoon for Steve McMahon, manager of Swindon since November 1994, who was close to becoming their ex-manager before the current season began.

His team had not won at the County Ground since January during a calamitous run that plunged them to the brink of relegation last season and seemed to have spilled over into the new campaign.

Three-nil up before some spectators had settled into their seats, Swindon, pegged back to 3-2 as Bristol City laid siege to their goal, had to survive two men sent off - and their goalkeeper was forced to play on with a broken nose. As the referee added eight minutes of

stoppage time, McMahon watched Bristol's Ade Akinbiyi hit the bar twice, before at last sampling the relief of a victory.

"It was hard to stand and watch it, I must admit," McMahon said. "But the players deserve the result because they stuck with it. At least we managed to win it, and maybe that means our luck is changing at last. I think we deserve it."

The last few months have led the 36-year-old former Liverpool and England midfielder to wonder whether he really wants to manage a club with no money and few prospects, especially when it means suffering the abuse of disgruntled supporters.

Swindon's faltering fortunes - a run of four wins in 29 games last season turned them from promotion candidates to relegation fodder - have also encroached upon his family life.

His family have been the targets of abuse, too, especially his children.

"I was wondering whether it was all worthwhile," he said, confirming that he had considered resigning. "But a lot of players rang me to tell me they wanted me to stay and that was very important. Feeling I had the full backing of the players gave me a real lift."

Even so, there were times when even the potentially harrowing idea of taking over at Manchester City - a job he turned down in 1997 - must have seemed attractive. The calls for him to go had begun to mount this season after three defeats in the first five First Division matches, and chairman Rikki Hunt felt obliged to offer a vote of confidence only last week.

Saturday's result has quietened the barrackers for the moment, although it was tough and

go as promoted Bristol City battered away at Frank Talia's goal.

Yet Swindon's opening could not have been more emphatically successful. Mark Walters, who slotted home a second-minute penalty, played a part in setting up the second for George Ndash, and laid on the third for Iffy Onuma as a County Ground crowd who had witnessed only one Swindon goal in four matches could scarcely believe what their eyes were seeing.

But even with a three-goal cushion, their team was still vulnerable. In an eventful second half, Akinbiyi hit back after 62 minutes and collided with Talia in the process, leaving the Swindon goalkeeper with a broken nose. With no reserve on the bench, he was patched up and played on for half an hour before going to hospital.

Before then, substitute Sol Davis had been sent off for the foul on Scott Murray that led to Micky Bell adding City's second from the penalty spot, and Robin Hulbert was also dismissed after committing two yellow card offences in the 10 minutes he was on the field.

A third Bristol goal would have come as no surprise. But the final whistle beat them to it and allowed McMahon, for once, to remember why he still wants to be manager.

**Goalkeepers:** Walters (pen 2) 1-0, Ndash (5) 2-0, Onuma (8) 3-0, Akinbiyi (62) 3-1, Bell (pen 75) 3-2. **Defence:** Walters (pen 2) 1-0, Ndash (5) 2-0, Onuma (8) 3-0, Akinbiyi (62) 3-1, Bell (pen 75) 3-2. **Midfielders:** Walters (pen 2) 1-0, Ndash (5) 2-0, Onuma (8) 3-0, Akinbiyi (62) 3-1, Bell (pen 75) 3-2. **Forwards:** Walters (pen 2) 1-0, Ndash (5) 2-0, Onuma (8) 3-0, Akinbiyi (62) 3-1, Bell (pen 75) 3-2. **Substitutes:** Walters (pen 2) 1-0, Ndash (5) 2-0, Onuma (8) 3-0, Akinbiyi (62) 3-1, Bell (pen 75) 3-2. **Referee:** Walters (pen 2) 1-0, Ndash (5) 2-0, Onuma (8) 3-0, Akinbiyi (62) 3-1, Bell (pen 75) 3-2. **Attendance:** 8,537. **Man of the match:** Walters.

## Newcastle deny £14m bid for Shearer

NEWCASTLE UNITED have denied reports that Serie A side Parma have made a £14m bid for Alan Shearer. The Italians are reported to be interested in reuniting the England striker with his former club-mate, Fausto Rossi.

The Italian sports newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport reported that Parma have made a £14m bid for Alan Shearer. However, Newcastle continue to insist the England captain is not for sale - at any price - and that, anyway, they have not received any bid for their £15m record buy.

Shearer, along with former England captain Stuart Pearce and club captain Rob Lee, met the new manager Rudd Gullit seven days ago to discuss the future and the direction things would go, and there has been no indication that Shearer has decided it is time to move.

Parma's reputed bid for Shearer comes after they failed in an audacious attempt to sign Gabriel Batistuta from Fiorentina. Gullit was unavailable for comment.

Everton hope to sign the Italian striker Igor Protti from Lazio today in the first of several deals at Goodison. Walter Smith, their manager, is flying in the 33-year-old Protti and plans to complete the deal in time for him to face Leeds United on Saturday.

Smith wants Protti and the African Ibrahim Bakayoko, of Montpellier, in a new-look attack, once he has agreed with Middlesbrough a valuation for Duncan Ferguson.

## Angell provides the Cordon Bleu finish

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Stockport County 2  
Grimsby Town 0

IT IS a predictable and patronising put-down to describe a club like Stockport as unpretentious. In truth, any club that carries a restaurant critic and a wine columnist in its match programme has fancier ideas than most.

Yet it took the last 11 minutes

to transform this insipid brew into something more palatable. County have what it takes to be one of the better sides in the First Division, which is not to say that it is easy to imagine them in the Premiership. Already solid at the back, they should also be good for a healthy goal tally this season, now they have brought in Ian Moore alongside Brett Angell.

The big striker was not exactly the Angell of the North

during unproductive spells with Sunderland and Everton, but he has always scored goals for Stockport. On Saturday he always looked likely to break the deadlock again but, with Paul Cook lacking his normal precision in midfield, the quality of service was not quite up to standard.

Gary Megson, shouting himself hoarse from the dug-out, had come to the conclusion that he needed to rearrange

things and the introduction of a third striker, the vigorous young Aaron Wilbraham, did the trick.

A handful from the start, it was his knock-down that produced Angell's first goal and he could have scored himself before Angell grabbed a second.

It made it all look rather more straightforward than it had been, because there had been periods of the game where Grimsby were threatening to take control. David

Smith and Wayne Burnett in midfield gave them a quality of movement that Stockport often failed to match and it was only the lack of impact of their frontmen, Lee Ashcroft and Jack Lester, that denied them a first away point.

Last season was one of the best for Grimsby, with the scapels of Leicester City and Sheffield Wednesday in the Coca-Cola Cup as well as promotion to the First Division. But

the lesson of this defeat was that they are going to have to make vulnerable sides work harder than this if they are to make an impression this term. Goals: Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Defence:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Midfielders:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Forwards:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Substitutes:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Referee:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Attendance:** 5,199. **Man of the match:** Angell.

**Goalkeepers:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Defence:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Midfielders:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Forwards:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Substitutes:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Referee:** Angell (78) 1-0, Angell (90) 2-0. **Attendance:** 5,199. **Man of the match:** Angell.

## Thorne stings Cherries

BY BOB HOUSTON

Stoke City 2  
AFC Bournemouth 0

BRIAN LITTLE seems much more relaxed nestling in Stoke's impressive new Britannia Stadium, away from the rarefied atmosphere of the Premiership. But then, his new charges have got off to a start of six straight wins in the Nationwide Second Division and are already putting space between any challengers who may emerge along the way.

Bournemouth are in that category and were keen enough to prove that they should still be among the contenders by next May. They just failed to live with a rejuvenated Stoke in the second half and crumbled to a pair of messy goals.

Had their striker, Mark Stein, shown the deadly touch he once exhibited as a Stoke hero, it might have been a very different story. In the first minute, with the sound of a rousing reception from his former Stoke admirers still ringing in his ears, he man-

aged to miss a sitter when Mohammed Berthe's cross found him unmarked at the far post. Midway through the second half he did it again, after Neil Young had done the hard work with his run and cross.

Those misses allowed Stoke to record their third successive clean sheet and the 65th minute arrival of the diminutive Dean Crowe, to become Stoke's third all-out attacker, did the rest. Within five minutes Peter Thorne had scrambled Stoke's first and the substitute made sure of the points with another untidy goal four minutes later.

An inspired substitution? Another for the "Super Sub" scrapbook? No, it was simple, the Stoke manager explained after the game. "Both sides had defended well and it didn't look as if they were going to score so I decided to throw in another forward. Substitutions will not all be that easy and simple as we go through the season."

The City faithful are the first to admit that they have had more than their fair share of luck - especially at Colchester

last week - in this blistering start to the season. But such a mean defence often proves to be the ace in the hole when it comes to climbing out of the lower divisions. Even without their Icelandic defender, Larus Sigurdsson, back home in Reykjavik giving France a fright, Stoke managed to keep Bournemouth - those two gifts to Stein apart - at arm's length. Carl Muggleton's clean and confident handling is a big help to the men in front of him, in direct contrast to Mark Owendale's occasional Tommy Cooperish antics in the Bournemouth goal.

The record books will show this has been Stoke's best start to a season since the days of Arnold Bennett and before even Stan Matthews was thought of - the 1905-06 season, to be precise.

**Goals:** Thorne (70) 1-0, Crowe (78) 2-0. **Defence:** Thorne (70) 1-0, Crowe (78) 2-0. **Midfielders:** Thorne (70) 1-0, Crowe (78) 2-0. **Forwards:** Thorne (70) 1-0, Crowe (78) 2-0. **Substitutes:** Thorne (70) 1-0, Crowe (78) 2-0. **Referee:** Thorne (70) 1-0, Crowe (78) 2-0. **Attendance:** 13,443. **Man of the match:** Thorne.

## Grazioli bashes Barnet

GIULIANO GRAZIOLI had to be content with five goals rather than the six he was originally credited with as Peterborough United crushed Barnet 9-1 to set a Third Division record.

Grazioli, who was signed by the Post manager Barry Fry after excelling for non-League Stevenage against Newcastle in the FA Cup last season, thought he had become the first player since West Ham's Geoff Hurst in 1968 to score six goals in an English League match.

However, one of them was later credited to a team-mate. Hurst scored six against Sunderland in the old First Division in October 1968, the Hammers winning 8-0.

The demolition job Fry's team did on the club he took into the Football League beat the previous Third Division record for a victory, which also went to the away side when



Giuliano Grazioli salutes one of his five goals against Barnet

Scunthorpe won 8-1 at Torquay in October 1995.

Saturday's scoreline could have been even worse for the Bees had Peterborough's Mike Bodley not scored an own goal.

The Barnet manager John Still also had to endure the embarrassment of his team finishing the game with only nine players. Jonathan Ford was sent off for violent conduct after nine minutes and Warren Goodhind for serious foul play on the hour.

## Oxford at best for cameras

BY MARK PIERSON

Oxford United 3  
Portsmouth 0

OXFORD UNITED, without a goal for 402 minutes at the start of the match, recorded their first win of the season in front of the Sky television cameras at the Manor Ground yesterday.

For the first 25 minutes Portsmouth ran them ragged and only three excellent saves by Phil Whitehead from John Aloisi, John Durrin and David Hillier kept them in the game.

United finally found the net after 28 minutes. Jamie Cook, Paul Powell and Matt Murphy linked up on the left before the ball was played out to Les Robinson, whose cross from the right was headed in by the England Under-21 international Simon Marsh.

Six minutes later Pompey conceded a penalty and had

their full-back Robbie Pethick sent off. Cook kicked a pass from Murphy past the full-back and was allowed to continue after Pethick pulled at his shirt.

Cook's shot was brilliantly saved by Aaron Flahavan but referee Paul Taylor halted play, awarded Oxford a penalty and showed Pethick the red card, having booked him earlier for another foul on Cook. Dean Windass scored from the spot.

Then, after 74 minutes, when Portsmouth failed to clear, Murphy slipped a pass to Windass, who chested the ball down and drove in his second goal.

**Goals:** Marsh (28) 1-0, Windass (pen 34) 2-0, Windass (74) 3-0. **Defence:** Marsh (28) 1-0, Windass (pen 34) 2-0, Windass (74) 3-0. **Midfielders:** Marsh (28) 1-0, Windass (pen 34) 2-0, Windass (74) 3-0. **Forwards:** Marsh (28) 1-0, Windass (pen 34) 2-0, Windass (74) 3-0. **Substitutes:** Marsh (28) 1-0, Windass (pen 34) 2-0, Windass (74) 3-0. **Referee:** Marsh (28) 1-0, Windass (pen 34) 2-0, Windass (74) 3-0. **Attendance:** 5,625.







Euro 2000: England undermined by faulty formation fronted by dynamic duo as Swedes sweep through their ranks

## Hoddle faces two-pronged problem

GLENN  
MOORE  
COMMENTARY

IT WAS not just England's European Championship prospects which were put in jeopardy on Saturday evening. It was also the future of England's new dream attack. Though Tommy Soderberg, Sweden's coach, underlined football's essential simplicity by describing his winning tactics as "boom, boom, swap, swap", the game is not so simple that it is just a case of throwing the best players together.

Much as happened six years ago, when Graham Taylor's turkeys were uprooted in the same Stockholm stadium, England were outplayed by a team which moved both ball and bodies with greater fluidity, imagination and pace to earn their 2-1 victory. "Everybody was talking about Michael Owen but we have fast players too," said Lars Lagerback, Soderberg's assistant.

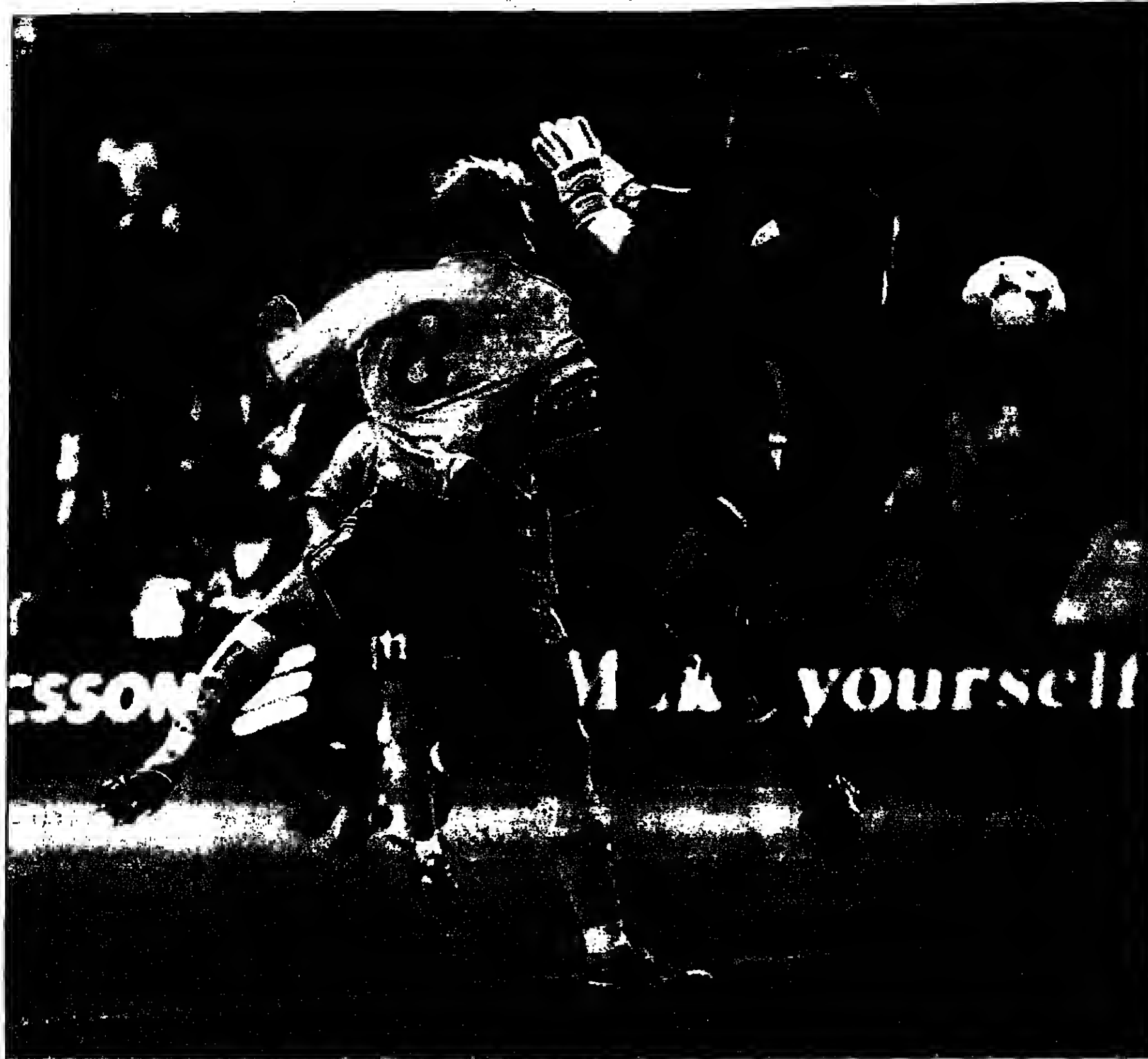
Fleet of thought as well as foot. From the moment Soderberg told Anders Andersson to make Sweden's twin attack a three-pronged one England were on the back foot. The central defenders were dragged out of their comfort zones while the wing-backs were drawn into becoming full-backs. As a result England lost their attacking width, leaving Owen and Alan Shearer isolated.

This has happened before, most notably in Switzerland, and if Glenn Hoddle persists with a 3-5-2 formation it raises serious questions about the potency of this much-heralded partnership.

England's next difficult away match is not until next summer, in Bulgaria, but before then Glenn Hoddle must find a solution to the problem which threatens to negate the apparent boon of having two outstanding forwards available at the same time.

At international level the best partnerships - Lineker and Beardsley, Shearer and Sheringham - have been those of spearhead and link man, scorer and provider. Ferdinand and Shearer, Hateley and Lineker, did not succeed.

One reason for this is pin-pointed in Tony Adams' autobiography *Addicted*, which is published today. He writes: "You couldn't play [Shearer and Lineker] together because they would take each other's space and be rendered ineffective." Owen,



Johan Mjallby heads past England's goalkeeper David Seaman to give Sweden a 2-1 victory in Stockholm on Saturday

Michael Steele/Empics

with his movement, finishing and pace, is not dissimilar to Lineker. Yet the danger of him and Shearer getting in one another's way is only half the problem. The other, in the modern arena, is the concentration on the midfield numbers game. If you play two up away from home, when you are inclined to defend deeper, the team becomes stretched out with the result that, as on Saturday, forward service be-

comes limited to long balls from the back. The solution was to play Paul Scholes behind the front two but with the wing-backs pushed back he could not afford to get forward, as that would have left Paul Lane and Jamie Redknapp overrun in midfield.

Having a deeper player also causes problems for the opposition. It draws a central defender out and also cramps the space available for

playmakers like Stefan Schwarz, who was allowed to roam the Råsunda stadium untroubled.

Hoddle was clearly disappointed with the front two's positional play. He said: "There are reasons Michael did not get chances from his side of the coin as well as anyone else's." He added: "Michael and Alan could have done it [their partnership] a lot better and it's something we've got to look at if they are going to play

together. I asked one of them to drop off at times but, though we got messages on, for whatever reason it did not happen enough. We have got to look at the pair of them working defensively to put more pressure on the opposition's deep-lying midfield players."

Shearer generally had a decent game. He was clearly pumped up by the pre-match attention on Owen and deserved his goal, scored off the

inside of the post after 72 seconds after Scholes had won a free-kick. He might easily have had a penalty when Roland Nilsson chopped him off at the knee in the box in the last minute but Pierluigi Collina, the Italian referee, appeared to hold Shearer's delayed and crumpling fall against him.

A penalty then would have been very handy but largely undeserved. Though Darren Anderton started

brightly before being injured, Jamie Redknapp had his moments and Sol Campbell was reasonably solid, few of the England players emerged with any credit. David Seaman, in particular, looked sluggish for both of the goals. Adams did not appear fit and Gareth Southgate was unusually impetuous.

He gave away the free-kick from which Anders Andersson equalised after Seaman had parried Schwarz's shot. He and Adams also missed Pontus Kasper's cross from which Scholes inadvertently set up Johan Mjallby for the winner 129 seconds later. Reflecting on how Seaman, oddly, made himself small by protecting his face as he challenged for the loose ball, Scholes must have thought wistfully of Peter Schmeichel's "startburst" routine.

"Strange" and "silly" goals according to Hoddle but they were a consequence of drawing Sweden on to them. The idea was to create space to counter-attack through Owen, but England's passing was neither quick nor accurate enough to do so. Instead they invited pressure which forces mistakes and, after the buzz of the early goal dissipated, England lacked authority. The passing, Hoddle noted, became "sloppy" though he was unsure whether it was "complacency or lack of technique".

Confidence, perhaps sapped by the recent controversies, or differences with the manager, went quickly and Sweden took advantage. Along with Schwarz and Celtic's Henrik Larsson, Fredrik Ljungberg, the part-timer from Halmstad stood out. It was no surprise to hear the 21-year-old is thought bound for Barcelona.

Hoddle's other concern was the indiscipline. "We picked up too many bookings through rash tackles," he said. The worst offender was Ince, who was justifiably dismissed after 64 minutes and will be banned for at least one match.

After his exit, England showed their customary pluck and might have stolen a draw through Graeme Le Saux or Shearer's penalty claim. That, however, would merely have prolonged the false impression left by the heroic defence of St Etienne.

Goals: Shearer (2), 0-1; A. Andersson (30) 1-1; Mjallby (32) 2-1.

SWEDEN (4-1-3-2): Nilsson (Covington City); Andersson (Covington City), P. Andersson (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Nilsson (Venezia); Kasper (Leicester City); Schwarz (Venezia); A. Andersson (Newcastle United), Mjallby (Vik Sjöholm), Ljungberg (Halmstad); Larsson (Borussia Mönchengladbach), Larsson (Celtic), Schmeichel (Leeds) (IFK Göteborg) for Kasper, 82; D. Anderton (Malmö) for A. Andersson, 90.  
ENGLAND (3-5-2): Seaman (Arsenal); Southgate (Aston Villa), Adams (Arsenal), Campbell (Aston Villa), Shearer (Liverpool), Scholes (Manchester United), Redknapp (Leeds), Le Saux (Celtic); Owen (Liverpool); Shearer (Newcastle United), Substitutes: Lane (Newcastle United) for Anderton, 42; Beardsley (Middlesbrough) for Campbell, 70; Sheringham (Manchester United) for Scholes, 86; Ferdinand (Manchester United) for Shearer, 86; Referee: P. Collina (Italy).  
Sending off: England: Ince. Booked: Sweden: Schwarz. England: Owen, Ince, Redknapp. Attendance: 35,394.  
Man of the match: Schwarz.

## Pouting Ince lets the side down Pressure on Spain's coach

ALL RIGHT, so in today's climate even such notable gentlemen of the game as Stanley Matthews and Bobby Charlton would be fortunate not to appear on the crime sheet, but the indiscipline that finally wrecked England's cause in Stockholm on Saturday further undermines a once proud reputation.

We have come a long way from the time when Corinthian idealism ensured that anyone sent off in an England shirt had seen the last of his caps, but the Football Association are on dangerous ground if they are prepared to go along with pragmatic management.

Glenn Hoddle cannot be held to account for the stupidity that resulted in Paul Ince being dismissed for a second yellow card offence against Sweden anyone than he was responsible for the petulance that resulted in David Beckham's expulsion against Argentina during the recent World Cup finals.

However, it is the coach who sets standards of behaviour, the coach who treads that fine line between acceptable and unacceptable

KEN  
JONES  
ON MONDAY

able conduct when calling for a maximum effort.

It was not merely that England again found themselves depleted in an important match but that Ince disgraced himself and the team as he pouted towards the dressing rooms, appearing to show the crowd two fingers while mouthing off invective.

People crammed into the south

London pub where I watched the match were in no mood to forgive Ince's indiscretion.

"Idiot," bellowed a large man, his ample gut bulging beneath a replica England shirt. Idiot indeed, Ince's wild lunge when other methods of interception were available to a player of his experience bringing all it deserved.

The mood of those around me had changed in the two or three minutes that saw Sweden equalise and take the lead after falling behind to Alan Shearer's free-kick. "Here we go again," they chorused bleakly.

Taking some air outside during the half-time interval - also relief from a bombardment of television analysis - I was approached by three late arrivals, one of whom asked for the score. As the inquiry was in a Scottish accent, the response to news of England's distress, "They'd better get Eileen to give the team talk," was predictable.

As the second half progressed little could be heard to support Hoddle's belief that he is much loved by England's supporters. "He's lost the plot," somebody said. "Anderson's bloody injured again," said another. "Alan Shearer's not what he was and the tactics are a disaster."

Michael Owen's ineffectiveness baffled them. "At this level it's a lot more difficult for Owen to find space," they had heard Andy Gray say on Sky's transmission.

Trouble is that Owenmania overwhelms circumspection. Time is what the Liverpool prodigy needs, time in which to supplement his cornering pace with improvements in link play and dealing with more accomplished defenders than he comes up against in the Premiership.

Last week's hat-trick at Newcastle was further proof of Owen's enormous potential but it was achieved against a team that would have struggled to keep out the Avon lady Sweden were a much different proposition, working hard and intelligently to ensure that the supply lines to Owen and Shearer were cut off.

I felt it wise not to enter into discussion about this because the assembled company grew more and more frustrated with the errors, individual and collective, England continued to make: careless passing, shaky positional play, unintelligent movement.

When Sweden began using their numerical advantage to give England the run around by sensibly keeping possession, it was more than my companions could stomach. "We were supposed to win this match," somebody said, "but the Swedes are just taking the piss out of us."

A cry went up when Shearer appeared to be tripped in injury time. "Penalty," they chorused. From the large screen Ron Atkinson expressed doubt. "It isn't clear," he said. "What's he bloody on about," came a cry from my left. "A penalty, definitely a penalty."

Hoddle could be seen gesticulating on the touchline. "Come on Glenn, get a grip," came the shout. Then it was over. Much muttering. "Same old story," somebody said.

JAVIER CLEMENTE said he has no intention of resigning as Spain's coach despite his side's dismal 3-2 defeat away to Cyprus in their European Championship qualifying Group Six match.

"The idea is to carry on working calmly and prepare for the next game, which is still a month away," Clemente said after Saturday's setback.

Clemente, who survived calls for his resignation after Spain's unexpected first-round exit at the World Cup in France, knows the knives will be out once more in the wake of the Cyprus debacle, which saw Spain outfought and outplayed by their modest hosts.

Cyprus were 2-0 ahead inside 48 minutes, Panayiotis Engomitis and Sotoca Gogic scoring either side of half-time, and kept their shape after a goal from Raul, the Real Madrid striker, threatened to inspire a comeback from Spain. They went 3-1 ahead thanks to a superb header from Milenko Spoljaric and although Fernando Morientes gave Spain hope with six minutes to go the Cypriots held on.

For the moment, Clemente has the support of the Spanish football federation, which says it will honour the remaining two years of his contract, but that backing will be tested to the limit if Spain continue to perform badly on such a grand scale.

The omens for Russia's first encounter with Ukraine, their fellow former Soviet republic, were never good and Saturday's 3-2 defeat suggested a squad in as deep a crisis as the country's economy.

The collapsing rouble ensured the Russian team even as they prepared to travel for the Group Four match. Only the arrival of an armoured car laden with hard cash

persuaded the Moscow airport authorities to fuel their charter plane and let them fly to Kiev.

"Players cannot help but be worried and to some extent distracted by what's going on in the country," Russia's new Ukrainian-born coach, Anatoly Byshovets, said, praising the way his makeshift foreign legion hung on after the Chelsea goalkeeper Dimitri Kharike was sent off.

Ukraine's Prime Minister, Valery Pustovitnenko, who also heads their football federation, was among 82,000 passionate fans who watched their side take the ragged Russians apart, going 2-0 up inside 35 minutes and only narrowly failing on a number of occasions to turn the evening into a total rout.

Unheralded Iceland confirmed on Saturday what the world has suspected, that France lack an effective strike force despite winning the World Cup. The world champions failed to shine in their opening Group Four qualifier, drawing 1-1 with Iceland in Reykjavik, a result which will raise the hopes of both Ukraine and Russia.

It also gave added firepower to France's detractors and vividly showed that the team desperately needs effective strikers.

"I cannot blame the players. They did what I was expecting from them tonight. But I must say that we were unlucky, particularly during the second half," said France's new coach, Roger Lemerre, who will find that blaming fate will find him few allies from a hostile French press.

Armenia predictably made short work of the group's minnows, Andorra, beating them 3-1 with Tigran Yesayan scoring twice in the Central stadium in Yerevan. The goal they gave away came from a late penalty.

## Merson squares up for Robson showdown

PAUL MERSON is expected to hold talks with the Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson today, after admitting he almost quit the club on three occasions last season.

Merson is apparently desperate to leave the Riverside stadium, with Aston Villa the firm favourites to land the England man. The former Arsenal player cites a mixture of unhappiness at Middlesbrough's lack of ambition, and fears he may return to drinking and gambling, as his chief reasons for wanting to quit the north-east.

Merson, a key component in help-

ing Middlesbrough regain their Premiership status last season, said, "I'm not happy with a lot of things behind the scenes at the club at the moment, and it's going to be sorted out on Monday."

"It would be right to call them showdown talks, and it looks as if I will probably be on my way. There is also loads of personal stuff which I need to sort out and talk about with Bryan Robson."

"A lot of the players like to have a drink and a bet. The situation is too much for me - the danger signs are there."

"I know if I keep on being exposed to drinking and gambling I am in danger of going back to my old ways."

"I made Bryan aware of my feelings in a conversation from Sweden on Friday. But this isn't an overnight decision on my part, which has come out while I'm away with England."

"I had three meetings with the club last year about getting away and no-one ever knew about it. Things were sorted out behind the scenes and everything was kept hush-hush. That's what I wanted to do again

this time, but now the whole world knows."

Villa's manager John Gregory is keen to land Merson, as the player has been looking for a link up between midfield and attack.

Robson will be looking for more than the £5m to recoup his investment, but Villa may well feel that is an unrealistic fee for a player past his 30th birthday.

Merson explained: "I feel as if I have got to get away. Something has got to be done. Paul Gascoigne's name has been blown up as the reason why I am going because he is

going to sell papers. But I'm not just blaming Gazza. That's just one thing that's been picked up on."

Merson added that Middlesbrough's apparent lack of ambition was affecting his decision. "There are other things relating to the club. I went there to be part of a team that wanted to get back in the Premiership, but was also told I'd be part of a team that would win trophies."

"The fact they have not bought players and strengthened in certain areas of the team is a big part of my decision. Middlesbrough are not going to win anything this year."

July 20 1998









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## SPORT

Football: Stockholm setback increases pressure on England coach as Shearer expresses concern over bad publicity

## Future of Hoddle in the balance

BY GLENN MOORE

IT WAS against Bulgaria, 19 years ago, that Glenn Hoddle began his career as an international player. Next month, in another European Championship qualifier against the Bulgars, he could end his career as an international manager.

If Hoddle's entrance was spectacular, a stunning volleyed goal from 20 yards announcing his talent, his exit would be just as dramatic. There is no sign that the Football Association would sack him but growing indications that, should the result go against him, he may quit.

On Saturday, in the wake of England's 2-1 defeat to Sweden in Stockholm, he walked out of a press conference when asked if he could refute speculation that he would be interested in the newly-vacant Tottenham job.

Yesterday he did so, but it was hardly a ringing declaration of intent. "I've a contract for the next two years and there are talks around the corner about a new one," he said. For a man who claims to have dreamed of being England manager since he was 12 it was a low-key affirmation of his pride in the job.

Should Hoddle leave, Tottenham, who are thought to be more interested in George Graham, is an unlikely destination. The club is in a far worse shape than England and, as Ossie Ardiles, Gerry Francis and Christian Gross found out, the media spotlight, being on a daily basis, is no less intense.

If Hoddle goes it will be to an overseas post. But should he go? Though Saturday's performance was poor it is too early

to call for his departure. Equally it is premature for the FA to try to extend his contract. While England still have every prospect of qualifying for the finals there are worrying signs.

The most serious is that, increasingly, it is the players, as well as the press and public, who have reservations about his judgement. Tony Adams has already expressed doubts and Alan Shearer, a man who chooses his words carefully, is clearly unhappy about the manager's contribution to the recent bad publicity surrounding the team. Late Saturday night he suggested it may have contributed to the defeat.

"I couldn't understand how it all went wrong during the game but I don't think all the crap that went on beforehand helped," he said. "I mean all the stuff about books and all the publicity. It didn't affect me because my skin is thick, but it may have affected others. One thing is for sure, it certainly didn't help. In the circumstances this was the worst possible result. We could have killed off all of this and instead we have allowed it to continue."

More supportively, Shearer added: "We can expect fierce criticism and we deserve it. We can't complain about all the things that will be said, the players have to take responsibility, too. We are a unit and the players are behind the manager. We have to take things on the chin."

"I just hope nobody presses the panic button. It is very important that nobody should react without thinking. It would be crazy to start making wrong decisions. I wish we could play on Saturday and get this out of

our system, instead we have a long wait which will allow all the nonsense to build up again."

The build-up to the Bulgaria game will not be helped by the controversy about Paul Ince's behaviour on Saturday and more forthcoming books by Teddy Sheringham and Eileen Drewery. There may also be problems from Tottenham, once they have sorted out their own problems, about the condition of Darren Anderton.

Anderton was injured just after Sweden went ahead and Hoddle said: "As soon as he did it we all knew on the bench there was a possibility it was a cartilage or ligament. Yet Anderton, who had a scan yesterday, was allowed to carry on for another eight minutes before coming off, time in which he could further have damaged his injury. Hoddle said he wanted to try to continue, but if the injury was that obvious he should not have been allowed to."

Hoddle admitted that if Anderton failed to recover in time for next month's match with Bulgaria choosing his midfield would be "a major concern". David Beckham and Ince are suspended and David Batty, because of domestic suspension and injury, unlikely to be match-fit. There may also be further injuries before 10 October.

After Hoddle's debut goal he was dropped for England's next match, Ron Greenwood, the then-manager, declaring that "young players had to learn to live with disappointment". He has had plenty of disappointments since but now hopes that another meeting with Bulgaria will not provide the biggest one of all.



Paul Ince is restrained by Alan Shearer as referee Pierluigi Collina sends him off against Sweden

Reuters

## Ince faces wrath of FA

PAUL INCE may be banned from competitive internationals for six months after being sent off against Sweden in Stockholm on Saturday, writes Glenn Moore.

Ince will automatically be suspended from England's next match, the European Championship qualifier against Bulgaria on 10 October, but could face further disciplinary action from both the Football Association and Uefa, Europe's governing body.

After being dismissed for a second bookable offence Ince tried to have words with Henrik Larsson, the victim of his foul, then verbally abused the referee Pierluigi Collina. He was ushered away by team-mates but still had time to flick a V-sign in the direction of the England bench and Swedish supporters behind it before disappearing down the tunnel.

It was the 30-year-old former England captain's first sending off, but 12th and 13th bookings, in his 44-match international career. He became the sixth England player to be dismissed in 126 years - and the second in as many matches.

The FA intends to wait to see if Collina, or the match observer, mention Ince's behaviour in their reports to Uefa before commenting, but there is already a groundswell of opinion in favour of taking action independent of Uefa.

Peter Willis, the influential president of the Referees' Association, speaking in a personal capacity, said: "I was saddened and even angered at his reaction. It was not one of disappointment, nor of contrition or sadness, but of belligerence. It was not right or proper for a man of his position. As a professional footballer he has a responsibility. The governing bodies, such as the FA, have a responsibility to do something about it."

David Davies, the FA's Director of Public Affairs, said yesterday: "Glenn was not aware of any gesture being made when we returned but will, as always, be studying the video. He is then likely to wait for the Uefa reports before deciding what to do, if anything."

To judge by his support for Ian Wright and Alan Shearer when involved in disciplinary controversy, Hoddle's natural inclination would be to support his player. However, some FA councillors may take a different view and the matter is likely to be raised at the next meeting of the International Committee, in a fortnight's time, if not before.

There is a way for the FA to take the moral high ground without hampering England's European Championship chances. After playing Bulgaria England travel to Luxembourg for a tie they ought to be able to win without Ince. Then there is a November friendly against Yugoslavia with the prospect of a further non-competitive match before the qualifying campaign resumes in March.

The FA could thus announce it was suspending Ince for an additional international match on top of, and regardless of, any Uefa action without seriously affecting England's chances. This may also pre-empt further Uefa punishment.

## Graham could be the target for Tottenham

BY ALAN NIXON

GEORGE GRAHAM is believed to be the man Tottenham Hotspur want to replace Christian Gross as manager. Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, is expected to make an official approach to Leeds United this week.

Sugar is understood to have decided that the former Arsenal manager is the man he wants, although he would have to agree a compensation package with Leeds.

Graham denied last week that he was interested in becoming Sugar's third appointment at Spurs, but it is thought that the former Arsenal manager would welcome a return to the capital, despite his achievement in taking Leeds into Europe this season.

Leeds have a limited transfer budget and if Sugar has cash to

promise Graham, then the deal could go ahead. Tottenham would probably have to offer a huge salary perhaps as much as £1m a year. Leeds are sure to want a similar sum to let him go.

The arrival of Graham would put a question mark over the future of David Pleat, Tottenham's director of football, who favoured the Yugoslav coach, Raddy Antic, who until earlier this year was in charge of Atletico Madrid. Antic had even approached a player in anticipation of joining Spurs.

Any misgivings Sugar might have over the "bung" scandal that cost Graham the Arsenal job could be outweighed by the Scot's reputation as an organiser and disciplinarian.

One of Graham's first tasks at Tottenham would be major signings. The London club are already believed to be contemplating a £6m bid for Middles-

brough's unsettled Paul Merson. Aston Villa have already made a move for the Middlesbrough forward, but the lure of London would be greater still.

Middlesbrough are due to talk to Merson about his plans today, but that could be overtaken if Tottenham make a move.

Sugar, meanwhile, yesterday explained the reasoning behind his decision to sack Gross. "We were faced with an untenable situation created, with all due respect, by the media," he said. "The board felt that Christian, no matter how professional or how good he is, had been destroyed."

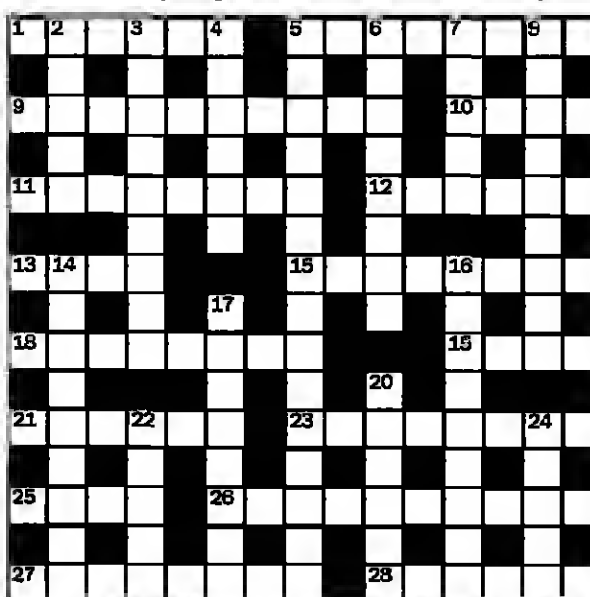
Gross said that he did not consider he had been a failure and added: "I think three games of this season was not long enough to judge me."

Gross departs, page 23  
Unhappy Merson, page 27

## THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3709, Monday 7 September

By Portia



- ACROSS**
- Pork-pie way past the sell-by date? (3, 3)
  - Romantic song's composed without a key (8)
  - Premier Northern sport male's involved in (10)
  - Sun top that's worn underneath, say (4)
  - Popular gesture as one amateur gets official badge (8)

- DOWN**
- Female ambassador finds bearings in US city (6)
  - Light sort of soil (4)
  - Water outfit cuts individual charge (8)
  - Swallow draught first, then relax (4, 4)
  - Outstanding quarrel (2-2)
  - Distort masculine viewpoint (6)

- Veto bowler's have to abide by? (3)
- Useless during first-aid lecture (4)
- Cover notes? (5, 5)
- Remind trainee youth leader at once (8)
- Lots of pet dogs are less quiet (6)

- DOWN**
- Pick up spare around mid-afternoon (5)
  - Clumsy breaking fine meat dish (3-6)
  - Seat's turned on a lathe, we're told (8)
  - I made cut in Sooty's new TV show (9, 6)
  - Hurry order round, Henry's come to be without (3, 5)
  - Prize winning Swedish chemist (5)
  - Girl's in agreement with split (9)
  - Dine with Ralph who's terrible flirt (9)
  - Travel to buy drinks (3, 6)
  - A few run group in the West country (8)
  - Almost alongside (4, 2)
  - Giltzy European gone in a flash (5)
  - Finish off diary one's written about French region (5)

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## The Second Coming

ABBOT ALL WORSHIPPED SINCE 1793

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# MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## JACK TEMPLE ➡



Kalpesh Lathigra

# Bad aura? Blocked energy? You've come to the right man

**S**o, to Jack Temple's clinic in West Byfleet, Surrey – a small, neat, town with a barn-effect Waitrose and endless post-war "cottages" with tidy, conifered gardens and bags of *Daily Telegraphs* put out at the gate for the recycling man, and names like "Little Garth" and "Single Oak". It seems very Wendy Craig country, if you know what I mean. Anyway, Jack's clinic comes just after the cottages peter out. It is a rather out-of-place, breeze-block bungalow thingy set in the middle of a big field, next to his "Neolithic stone circle" imported from Wales.

I go in and meet his receptionist whose name, I'm afraid, I never discover. "Vertigo," she says when she first introduces herself. Good film, I say, not quite knowing what else to say. "No, no, I had vertigo. Terrible vertigo. I couldn't walk this time last year. I still can't walk far but I can bike in to town. And it's all thanks to Jack!"

Jack Temple. Healer. Famous healer, even, whose patients have included the Duchess of York, Cherie Blair, Jerry Hall and, yes, Diana, Princess of Wales. Out he bounds from his consulting room. He has white hair and a ruddy complexion. Certainly he looks fit and seems to have terrific energy for someone who has not only reached 81 in this life, but has had, he later reveals, 120 previous lives and can trace his origins back 97,000 years.

Yes, he is in excellent shape, he confirms. "I measure myself against 45-year-olds." And? "I'm measuring up pretty good. Look." He touches his toes which, yes, is rather daunting, considering I am less than half his age and can't do up my own shoelaces without feeling faint. Jack says he should, by rights, have a weak heart. Weak hearts run in his family. Three of his brothers died young of weak hearts. "But I was able to dowse back four generations and locate the cause of the problem: toxins entering our forebears' systems through a crude black clothing dye that was commonly used in the nineteenth century." He devised a remedy consisting of "the distilled essence of 21 flowers dowsed for on the Isle of Skye". Alas, this was all too late for his brothers, but "I now have the heart of a 20-year-old!" He expects to live to 140. Truly? "Yes, YES!"

Jack is a dowsing healer, yes. This means he goes about with a pendulum, divining which parts of our bodies are letting us down, which parts of our "magnetic field" are "weak" and then, using the pendulum again, he will dowse for the most effective remedy. Fergie came to him suffering from "energy blockages". Cherie had swollen legs. With Jerry Hall it was back pain. With Diana, it was lead poisoning. Lead poisoning? "Yes, I dowsed it from watching her on television. I could tell by the way she held her head. I told her sister-in-law, Sarah, then about an appointment. She wanted to see me, she said, because my diagnosis of lead poisoning was 100 per cent correct. As a schoolgirl, she had pierced her right cheek with a sharp lead pencil and the point had broken off in to her face." Using his special "lead extracting treatment" he was, he says, able to "pull out the poison" and help her hold her head up properly again. He then later gave her a crystal, an amethyst, to "help her mentally and physically" but not, it transpired, in the event of a car crash in a tunnel in France. Perhaps you need opals for that.

He leads me into his consulting room, which is furnished from floor to ceiling with shelves of small bottles intriguingly labelled "sweet flag", "monkey sticks" and "banana stem". He travels extensively, collecting these remedies. He will say to his pendulum: "I need remedies for brain fatigue. Should I go to Goa?" If the pendulum swings and whirrs energetically, "then I know I must". Over the years, his pendulum has taken him to Goa and Nepal and Malaysia and the south of France and Israel but never, as far as I can make out, to Slough or Ikea on a bank holiday Monday, which is handy. Anyway, I'm dying to have a look at his pendulum. Can I have a look Jack? "Sure," he says.

Jack says you can use anything as a pendulum. A ring on a piece of string will do. His, though, is a little glass bauble thing on the end of a silver chain. I suspend it first from my right hand, then from my left, where it gives a little whirl. "Negative in the right! Positive in the left! You're a natural dowser!" exclaims Jack excitedly. Jack, I say, I don't want to put a damper on things, but are you sure you don't mean natural dozer? "I am certainly that. Once, I continue, even momentarily dozed off during a hot air balloon ride. I know this because I dropped my camera and killed a sheep in the field below. "No, no," insists Jack. "You are definitely a dowser!" Well, that is terrific, I say. Can I dowse this week's winning lottery numbers then? No, he replies, I can't. "There are some things you can not ask a pendulum. I can't thank God for what I am doing. I asked the pendulum: 'Can I thank God for what I am doing?' and it said 'no'. I can't dabble in the spirit world, either. And I won't do anything for personal gain, unless it has something to do with health."

I think Jack is a good man. He isn't a fake. He isn't a charlatan. I'm pretty certain he is genuine in the sense that he believes in what he does. I'm pretty certain, too, that his celebrity clients believe in him. Possibly, if you lead a fantasy life, you need a fantasy doctor. However, I'm not especially convinced, just as I'm not especially convinced by most New Age stuff, indeed, what with homeopathy and osteopathy and what-not all now proving so popular I am even of thinking of introducing my own therapy – up the gardenopathy – in which I charge an awful lot of money for cheerfully taking people to nowhere in particular. Certainly Jack, who has no medical qualifications and used to "scratch a living" as a market gardener, is doing very nicely. He sees 50 patients a week. He charges £40 per consultation then charges on top for remedies. I'd read he has an annual turnover of £150,000 a year. True? "I do very nicely," he confirms.



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

If you lead a fantasy life, you might need a fantasy doctor.

Cherie Booth, Fergie and Princess Diana have all consulted the doyen of dowsing

So, together with his wife, Blanche, whom he'd married at 22, he left London for Surrey, where he offered his services to a farmer. Here, he worked hard but slept well and felt healthy for the first time ever. Consequently, he became interested in agriculture and diet and nutrition and then organic farming. Jack always dowses his way round Waitrose. He will ask his pendulum "is this food good for me?" and if it is, the pendulum will whirl. What do they make of you in Waitrose, Jack? "Everyone follows me around, and buys what I buy!"

However, it is not just unnatural foodstuffs that can poison us. So too can nylon tights, soaps, tampons, hair dyes, microwave cookers, vaccinations and, most evil of all, the bottle feeding of babies. But I was bottle fed, I cry. "In that case," he sighs, "you are disconnected from your birth sign." Which means? "What birth sign are you?" Leo. "Okay," he says. He starts swinging his pendulum and mumbling "98, 97, 96... 84, 83, 82..." under his breath until, finally, he concludes, "you are living in 70 per cent darkness. Part of your body is not functioning correctly. It's a problem in your middle liver lobe. You are not properly absorbing Vitamins A or D. Can you see at night?" Yes. "Do your eyeballs flicker a lot?" No. Do you ever feel cold at your extremities? "Oh, all right," I say, not because I do, but because I feel I'm disappointing him somehow. "See! See!" he exclaims happily.

He eventually became a full-time organic market gardener, and would still be that now if, 25 years ago, he had not decided to exhibit his organic cultivation products at the first Mind and Body Festival in London. Here, while wandering about, he saw someone dowsing. He decided to have a go "and the pendulum whirled and swirled like a dervish when I picked it up, although I made no effort to make it move." He went home and told Blanche. Blanche was not well at that point. "She'd had a bout of bad luck. She'd been struck by lightning." Struck by lightning? "Yes. In a field near Bath. It was a lovely day, but then this cloud came from nowhere. Blanche was picked up and thrown to the ground. Her nerves withered and she couldn't even walk up stairs anymore." When he told Blanche about picking up that pendulum, she immediately dispatched him back to the festival to purchase one. He then dowsed and treated her with plant-based remedies. "She responded to them, and after years of being virtually bed ridden, was able to move, work, function and

Some of his patients do not have such excellent internal healing powers. In these instances, they have to have their powers shaken up in his special "vibrating chair". I later get to have a go on his special vibrating chair. It's a lovely, big black leather thing that, yes, is very vibrating and relaxing. "This is blissful," I say. All I need now is a facial. Do you do facials, Jack? "No." Manicures? "No." Leg waxing? "NO!" Jack, do you think I've inherited an aura from Joan Collins? "POSSIBLY! YES!"

Jack Temple was born Jack Templeski in the East End of London in 1917. The fourth of six boys, his father, Joseph, was a Polish Jewish tailor. Jack was, in fact, a sickly child. First rickets, then various stomach and bowel disorders. He now knows why. "My father was wounded in the leg by Japanese fighters when they invaded Port Arthur, in Manchuria, in 1906. That bullet caused my father great pain and I inherited a subsequent blockage which in turn caused distress in many internal organs."

When the Second World War broke out, he longed to join the Royal Navy but was so weedy he was rejected by seven doctors. Desperate to serve his country, he decided to join Britain's second line of defence – food production for its people and forces.

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## Vote for us

Sir: It is difficult to believe that we have an independent commission on the voting system currently sitting to recommend an alternative to the existing first-past-the-post system.

We read how Tony Blair is having difficulty in deciding how far to go on PR ("Blair delays PR until next parliament", 4 September) and how William Hague is determined to fight all-out to retain first-past-the-post in order to preserve the possibility of gaining total control from time to time.

Both Tories and Labour are desperate to ensure that any change results in advantage for their party, without concern for the electorate or the health of democracy, without searching for ways to overcome the general alienation of the people from politicians and the process of government.

Is it beyond hope that Lord Jenkins will propose a system which discounts party power and party advantage and is devised solely for the health of our democracy? Are we all going to lie supine while the party politicians decide which option suits their interests best and can therefore be put to the people in a referendum to give an illusion of choice?

A D HOADLEY  
Eastbourne, East Sussex

Sir: The Liberal party political broadcast on 3 September had the opposite effect to that intended. I had been rather persuaded of the logic of proportional representation. However, the image of being perpetually governed by a consortium of parties brought home to me how easily we could all suffer the tyranny of the majority.

Like most people I belong to a minority or two. In my case, I enjoy fox-hunting and riding powerful motorcycles. The good thing about power being vested in a single party for a parliamentary term is that that party loves the experience of power and is loath to lose it. For this reason, upsetting vociferous minorities does not make sense.

Take the issue of fox-hunting. The majority, if pressed, are again it but don't actually care very much. A large minority care very much. Consequence: no electoral advantage and the death of the Foster Bill.

Consortium rule means that it is very hard to pin blame and to wreak revenge as occurred on 1 May 1997. Single-party rule, by any party, is much more likely to be sensitive to the wishes of all the electorate.

GEOFF STOVOLD  
Blackham, East Sussex

## Class of '97

Sir: Concern is being expressed that the new intake of MPs haven't done long night shifts in the cold. I agree with Joe Ashton MP that we need representatives who are in touch with "working-class people" through their own working life experience ("Unions press for MPs from working class", 2 September).

As nurses prior to the election, Laura Moffatt (MP for Crawley) and I have many years of experience of 12-hour night shifts, working in stressful conditions when people's lives depend on your knowledge and abilities. Brute hard work is not just the preserve of traditionally "male" blue-collar workers. Nursing is hard labour (the tough side of new Labour?), and many nurses, like myself, suffer from permanent problems like back injuries.

Nursing also drives home the significance of public policy when confronted with the adverse effects that low incomes and poor housing can have on people's health. As a nurse I spent much time nursing the casualties of mean-minded politics – so much so that I sought election as a Labour candidate to bring about the preventative treatment of policy change.

MPs need to be representatives of the broad spectrum of life experiences. So whilst nursing may be a profession, it is also

important to remember that being a nurse is a vocation of hands-on tough work, and there are now two of them serving as representatives in Parliament.

ANN KEEN RN MP  
(Brentford and Isleworth, Lab)  
House of Commons  
London SW1

Sir: Joe Ashton MP appears to have a simplistic view of our society and its class structure and I would love to know which class he thinks I belong to.

I was brought up on a council estate but I went to grammar school. I like football (and used to play it) but have a BSc. I am studying part-time for a PhD but enjoy beer and darts when I can. Although Boddingtons is my standard tipple, I am quite partial to a bottle of Rioja.

Where does all of this leave me? It leaves me in the same place as the vast majority of people in this country: if I don't work, I don't eat and neither does my family. A brain surgeon is no different from a bricklayer in this respect and both are therefore working class.

To consider class anything other than a purely economic concept is to indulge in that ubiquitous British vice – snobbery.

G J COWBURN  
Sunderland, Tyne and Wear

## Save the forests

Sir: Your report about endangered tree species (26 August) mentioned the problem of illegal logging but not the efforts being made to improve forest management and the efforts of the UK timber trade to ensure that imported timber comes from legal and well managed sources.

Tropical timber producers are committed to introducing sustainable forest management systems by 2000. The UK timber trade promotes an environmental timber purchasing policy, signed

by about 100 companies, which requires signatories to seek documentary evidence of legal and well managed forest sources.

Consumers in the UK have a choice. They can boycott tropical timbers. This will decrease the economic value of the timber industry in those countries and their ability to invest in improved forest management and replanting. The forest will have less economic value and the incentive to clear for farming increases. Alternatively, they can continue to purchase these timbers and use their economic influence to introduce improved forest practices. This may well take five to ten years of gradual improvement.

The Timber Trade Federation has no problem with forest owners choosing to pursue Forest Stewardship Council certification. We welcome any realistic initiative which helps build consumer confidence in timber. However, the FSC certified timber available is but a tiny fraction of the UK's annual requirement.

What are consumers to do? Wait until sufficient FSC certified material becomes available? Hardly a practical proposition. Or

Sir: The large minority of independent readers who are gay males will have found Trevor Phillips' disparaging remarks about the penis in his article on youth holiday culture ("Love's been free for ages. Now it's a public free-for-all", 31 August) untrue and discriminatory. It's high time for the penises of the world to stand up and be seen.

JAMES AIDAN  
Cockham, Berkshire

Sir: Oliver Bennett ("Irritations of Modern Life", 2 September) takes the wrong approach to

do they turn away from timber, concerned by articles in *The Independent* and other newspapers, and choose alternatives – a PVC door, an aluminium window – which will have a far more damaging environmental impact than wood?

The Timber Trade Federation's environmental timber purchasing policy is a practical way of making progress with timber producers who, in tropical regions, often operate under very difficult technical and social conditions. They deserve support, not condemnation, for the efforts they are making.

P G HARRIS  
Director General  
The Timber Trade Federation  
London SW1

## A new paradox?

Sir: Gilbert Adair's paradox ("When pure logic is plain absurd", 5 September) is similar to "The Unexpected Hanging".

A man is sentenced to be hanged within the next seven days, but is told by the judge that the day of his execution will come as a surprise. He reasons that he cannot be hanged on the seventh

day, because if he lives through the first six days then he will not be surprised to die on the seventh.

Having ruled out the last day, the logical slide begins and he rules out execution on the sixth day by the same reasoning. He can then work through the entire week and comes to the conclusion that he cannot be hanged during that week and be surprised as the judge had said.

He is executed on the seventh day and he is, of course, surprised.

DAVID STANFIELD  
London E3

Sir: Gilbert Adair asks whether he has discovered a new paradox. His version is nice, but the paradox is well known to economists as a variant of the Prisoners' Dilemma.

Simplifying Adair's story, imagine two decorators competing for a contract to decorate a businessman's office. They can each make one of two prespecified bids. If the bids are different, the businessman accepts whichever is lower. If they are the same, he takes his business elsewhere. Logic tells a decorator that he will always end up with nothing if he bids high, whatever his rival may bid, but he might get something if

he bids low and his opponent stupidly bids high. If both decorators are clever, they will therefore both bid low and so both end up with nothing.

The more realistic case in which the businessman tosses a coin to decide who wins when the bids are equal, logic still requires that both decorators bid low. The story then has something important to say about the real world, namely: competition is good for consumers.

KEN BINMORE  
London WC1

## Defining porn

Sir: It is vital to remember that the child pornography which is being "censored" on the Internet ("Make it safe but keep it free", 4 September) is actually the record of crimes being committed. These crimes, which would still be crimes if there were no photographs, should be pursued as vigorously as possible.

With "ordinary" pornography, the situation is different. Provided that what is being shown is consensual heterosexual sex the actual actions are not illegal in any part of the world – what may be illegal is the showing of them, and showing them to people who do not want to see them is certainly not a good thing.

Pictures and films of explicit sex should be judged by asking, "What would I think if I had been told that these actions had taken place?" If I were to be told that a couple had gone to a room down the corridor from my hotel room, taken off their clothes and copulated, I am sure that my reaction would be "So what? People do."

Pictures of women being raped or beaten are in the same category as the child pornography: they are evidence of a crime, and the criminals should be prosecuted.

DAVID H WILD  
Hemel Hempstead,  
Hertfordshire

## IN BRIEF

the question of small stickers on fruit. Surely it would be better if we were to insist of shops offering this service that all fruit be given this branding opportunity, especially raspberries. I shall myself in future demand a substantial discount if I am offered unlabelled blackcurrants.

Dr HARRY YOXALL  
Townton, Somerset

Sir: How appropriate that Hamish McRae's polemic "The

market's not finished yet" (3 September) should be illustrated by a photograph of the twin towers in Kuala Lumpur, symbols of Malaysia's capitalist boom, seen through a pall of pollution-induced smog! Two consequences of the market obsession with growth are an enormous increase in the number of motor vehicles and the destruction of tropical rainforests, both of which contribute to rising pollution.

DAVID PACKHAM  
Department of Materials  
Science and Engineering,  
University of Bath

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



In the first of a new series on the Portuguese fishery, a lone fisherman stretches out a trawler's nets

Rui Xavier

## Measles vaccine

Sir: The letter from Dr Sarah MacDermott regarding the MMR vaccine and parents not having their children immunised (3 September) displayed the kind of patronising attitude that is partly to blame for the problem.

I am the father of an eight-week-old baby and I can assure her that my wife and I are only too aware that we are responsible for her health, not my GP. It is offensive to label us pejoratively as "the chattering classes" and to assume that we are incapable of judging the merits of newspaper articles. It may be that only one of the authors of the relevant article in *The Lancet* suggested separate vaccines, but it was only one doctor who blew the whistle on the Bristol surgeons, only one scientist who insisted that BSE was a problem.

My mother and father were told that it would improve their health to have all their teeth out. Shoe shops were advised that x-ray machines were harmless. More recently, Gulf war soldiers had no reason to be concerned about multiple vaccinations.

Did they have the full information?  
JEFFREY C G PIREY  
London N22

## Churchill and pits

Sir: Tony Heath (letter, 2 September), suggests that I offered an inaccurate account of the Rhondda troubles of 1910. My purpose was to make clear that Churchill first deployed the police, not armed with guns, in an attempt to restore order and that this was preferable to the immediate deployment of troops.

This was recognised at the time as a courageous and humane decision. The leading article in the *Manchester Guardian* of 10 November 1910 said: "Mr Churchill was violently attacked in yesterday's *Times* for a decision which in all probability saved many lives. It needed some courage after the Chief Constable had asked for troops, to stop the troops which were on their way and to send policemen instead. But, as usual the brave decision was the wise one. ... One can imagine what would have happened if the soldiers instead of the policemen had come upon the rioters while they were pillaging. Bayonets would have been used instead of truncheons ... and instead of a score of cases for the hospital there might have been as many for the mortuary."

D S HOSKINS  
Edinburgh

## Unfair to shellfish

Sir: After reading Julie Roxburgh's letter ("Shellfish abuse", 3 September) I was filled with shame and remorse at the memory of childhood shrimping expeditions followed by, I regret to say, shrimp teas.

In future, ignorance and thoughtlessness will be no excuse. Could Ms Roxburgh please suggest, humane ways of killing shrimps – or indeed oysters and mussels?

D MANNET  
Molarn,  
Worcestershire

Sir: We were heartened to see the space given on your letters page to our co-campaigners in the Shellfish Network (3 September). Despite the admitted lowly position of shellfish in the league-table of public sympathy, we at the recently launched Housefly, Parasitic and Biting Insect Support Group believe our constituency to be lower still.

Nonetheless, it might interest your readers to hear that we, too, will shortly be launching a Europe-wide campaign to outlaw the use of the unlicensed fly swat and remove barbaric fly-paper from sale, along with neurotoxin-laced sprays and lotions employed in the mass murder of innocent flies, wasps, fleas and parasites, both human and animal.

DAVID STOOKER  
Lancaster

## To seek out new life and new civilisations, to boldly go...

MONDAYS ARE different, now. Mondays will never be the same again. That is because Melvyn Bragg will never start the week again. Never again will he lead some of the world's leading lecturers, writers and geneticists through a graceful Monday morning parley. Never again will we hear him receive a science education in front of our very ears. For so long did Melvyn Bragg start the week, that it seems impossible that he is not still doing it in some alternative time/space continuum...

Bragg: Hello, and welcome to another space/time continuum, in which I, Melvyn Bragg, am still starting the week. Here to discuss whether this is actually possible is Dr Peter Chuzzlewit, whose new book on time is called *Due Out*

Soon, Lisa Kincardine, who is giving a lecture this Wednesday on Renaissance man...

Kincardine: Last Wednesday, Bragg: Sorry about that, who was giving a lecture last Wednesday on Renaissance Man, Jonathan Miller, who isn't here yet, and Professor Steve Jones, who is always here. Professor Chuzzlewit? Chuzzlewit: Yes? Bragg: Is it actually possible? Chuzzlewit: Is what possible? Bragg: Is it possible that, because a programme like *Start the Week* has been going on for so long, that even when the BBC decide to change it and dumb it down, it still pursues an independent existence in some other world? Chuzzlewit: No. Bragg: It's not possible? Chuzzlewit: No, certainly not.

Bragg: So this conversation is not actually happening at all? Chuzzlewit: No.

Bragg: Fascinating. Chuzzlewit: I mean, if you were to suppose that the Melvyn Bragg *Start the Week* were going on in an alternative time/space continuum, you might also suppose that your predecessor, Richard Baker, was also continuing somewhere else with his version of *Start the Week*. Bragg: Couldn't that be so too? Chuzzlewit: No. The idea is too horrible to contemplate. Bragg: So tell us about your book. It's about time, isn't it? Chuzzlewit: About time for what? Bragg: Leave the jokes to me. Chuzzlewit: Well, the idea behind the book is that books about time make a lot of money so it was time to write another one.



MILES KINGTON

*'I have never been in an alternative space/time continuum before – I don't really know the ropes'*

Bragg: Lisa Kincardine, do you want to come in here? Kincardine: Frankly, my chief

worry is whether I can get out. I have got an appointment in the real world at 11am. I have never been in an alternative space/time continuum before, so I don't really know the ropes. For instance, Melvyn, have you still got a peerage in this universe?

Bragg: I should jolly well hope so. In the real world I always insist that people should behave as if I wasn't a peer and was quite ordinary and I would like to do the same here. If I haven't got a title, I can't. Kincardine: Of course, it's quite possible for people to have a title and for nobody to know about it. Jonathan Porritt, for example.

Bragg: Has he? I had no idea... Jonathan Miller: (opening door) Sorry I'm late. Did I hear someone say the word "cognitive"? Bragg: No.

Miller: Oh. Rightly ho. (He leaves again.)

Bragg: So, Lisa Kincardine, you've written a book on the subject of Renaissance man?

Kincardine: No, but I did give a lecture on the subject last Wednesday. Bragg: Oh, right. And what did you say?

Kincardine: I can't remember.

Bragg: You're joking!

Kincardine: Yes, I'm joking. What I said was that our conception of Renaissance man has no real connection with the real Renaissance at all.

Bragg: In what way?

Kincardine: The real Renaissance was a rebirth. It was the rediscovery of old knowledge. But what we mean by Renaissance man is simply someone who knows a lot about a lot of things. A sort of super quiz

contestant. This shift of meaning reflects rather badly on our TV age.

Bragg: Of course, it's quite possible that the Renaissance is still happening in some other space/time continuum. Or that it hasn't even started yet!

Chuzzlewit: No, it's not.

Bragg: Steve Jones, do you think there is a gene which allows us to exist simultaneously in different universes?

Jones: I don't know! I just want to get out of here and back to the real world!

Jonathan Miller: (reappearing) Ah, but it rather depends what you mean by "real". doesn't it? Perhaps this is the real world, and...

This programme is continuing for ever and for ever, but not in this space...



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Blair must stop Murdoch taking over our national sport

THERE CAN be no question that Rupert Murdoch's attempt to buy Manchester United should be stopped, but it is important to be clear about why.

The Government cannot step in to block it simply because it would increase the rampant commercialism which is changing the face of football. Man Utd Inc would be an even more exploitative business than Man Utd FC, even more hell-bent on fleecing genuine fans and charging outrageous prices for children's shirts.

But these are prices that people are prepared to pay, and it is a tribute to football's success that one club can be worth £500m. The recent strength of English football owes a great deal, too, to the money brought into it by BSkyB. The fact is that sport is big business, and we should welcome it being run efficiently, even as we sigh with nostalgia for the days of the terraces.

But if this deal went ahead, it would be disastrous for the sport. One only has to look across the Atlantic at our game's unrecognisable cousin, which kicked off its season yesterday, to realise how full-blooded commercialism and television can change the nature of a game.

The argument against Mr Murdoch buying Manchester United cannot in the end be one of sentiment but one of economics. The point about sport, and especially a sport like football which is played all over the country by people of all ages and abilities, is that it generates loyalties which can be turned into a source of profit. There has always been a tension between club owners and fans, but this deal goes beyond a single club. Mr Murdoch does not want to buy Manchester United in the hope that it will compete with and beat other teams on a level playing field. He wants exclusive control of the television rights to the top games in Europe - which is almost as much a natural monopoly as a network of gas pipelines.

Tony Banks, the sports minister, has already rung the Government's alarm bells. And even if Mr Murdoch pretends that he has always been a particular fan of the club that gave us Charlton, Best and Cantona, we should not believe his promise that everyone would still be able to watch their successors. As for the idea that he would like to put a European super-league on pay-per-view television, Mr Murdoch wears an unconvincing look of wounded innocence. He has made promises before and broken them. Long ago he guaranteed the editorial independence of *The Times* and *Sunday Times*, a promise which was a dead letter within weeks.



Sky Television's takeover of BSkyB saw similar promises swept aside. Since then he has used sport as a lever to gain market share, making and breaking promises of open access all along.

Mr Murdoch's aim is to build a monopoly of televised football at the top level, not just in Britain but across Europe. As with his effective purchase of the entire sport of Rugby League, which he turned from a winter to a summer game, this would give him huge power over the lower levels of the sport. A Government genuinely committed not to football but to a dynamic and

competitive market economy must act aggressively and pre-emptively to stymie the inherent tendency of big business to monopoly. This is a real test of Mr Blair's young government, already on the cusp of being permanently marked with the word "cronyism". The Prime Minister allowed himself to be seen as Mr Murdoch's sales rep in that famous phone call from the Italian prime minister. What happened to all that brave pre-election talk about standing up to vested interests? He must stand up for the national interest and stop this deal going ahead.

## The unpopular thing is not always right

THERE MUST be no return to the Seventies: that has been the mantra of Labour Party modernisation. We can have bell-bottoms and disco, but we cannot have the National Executive of the people's party turned into a citadel occupied by those determined to accuse the Labour Government of betrayal.

This is all very sensible, but Labour's image managers make a mistake if they rely purely on institutional fixes for political problems. The conditions that produced Tony Benn's ascendancy do not exist today, although there are a surprising number of unreconstructed Bennites standing for election to the National Executive this year. What matters is that they do not declare their fundamentalist views openly, because they know they would not win the votes of the mass of party members if they did - one-member, one-vote democracy has made the difference.

However, the grass-roots members of the party are not all Blair clones, eager to express their support for the choices made by the present Government. As we report today, the party's new consultative mechanisms have thrown up the same sort of doubts about their party's record that might have been sent to Blackpool in old-fashioned conference resolutions. Members are unhappy about student fees, education action zones (which they see as backdoor privatisation), public sector pay and a foreign policy which seems to put closeness to President Clinton above ethics.

What is striking about this list, though, is how far removed it is from the lunacies of the far left. They are, indeed, all issues on which this newspaper has sounded a cautionary note.

Tony Blair would be making a historic mistake if he sought to stifle these concerns, or if he attributed them to the remnants of Seventies structures in Labour's constitution. He would be falling into the same sort of trap as Margaret Thatcher, who seemed to believe: "It's unpopular, therefore it's right." In fact, she seemed to think: "The more unpopular it is, the more right it is." Her disdain was reserved for public opinion, whereas Mr Blair distrusts opinion in his own party. It is true that his internal reforms seem to have run out of steam. But he should have the confidence to recognise that his changes have been more successful than expected in making Labour more representative of public opinion.

Too much of what passes for consultation in Mr Blair's new model party is a sham designed to soothe irritations after the event. He should not treat the views of his troops so lightly - he may need them one day.

## New Labour's German cousins use their tricks, but without their finesse

IT IS so relaxing to visit Germany just before an election. They have not undergone the ruthless streamlining of a British election campaign, so you can still see the joins and watch senior politicians trip over loose wires their colleagues have thoughtlessly or deliberately left lying around.

The ambitious defence minister Volker Rühe has just given an interview which implies - as many already suspect - that Wolfgang Schäuble, the chancellor's wheel-chair-bound crown prince, expects to succeed Helmut Kohl before the end of the next term. A very cross Helmut insisted he was "running as chancellor for the entire term. Full stop. End of story". Herr Schäuble added that Herr Rühe's intervention had been "bullshit".

This is an election campaign in which the spin doctors are mere first aid crews and the politicians still permit themselves to create muddle and misunderstanding without resorting to go-betweeners to do it for them. Devoid of ruthless enforcement of a single message from the centre, the candidates run wild: my colleague Ken Livingstone would be in seventh heaven. Unlike Britain, no one thinks this is odd or reprehensible. Germany's pre-1871 division in to small, loosely connected territories and more recently into federal Länder, creates a mentality healthily resistant to centralisation.

In the east, Social Democrats campaign on the fond memory of Willy Brandt and his understanding of the east. Gerhard Schröder, the candidate for the chancellorship, is barely mentioned. His dry, Western manner and pragmatism produce scant personal following there.

Meanwhile, in west Berlin's Charlottenburg, a thoroughly bourgeois district full of lawyers and dentists, Chancellor Kohl's party poster reads: "Christian and Democratic, not godless and Marxist". The confrontational language is a bizarre hark-back to the ideological brutality of Konrad Adenauer's long years in power after the war.

Present choices are far less stark. Softened by decades of coalitions and an attachment to consensus reinforced by fear of the political fragmentation and blood-letting which allowed the rise of Hitler, modern Germany repels debate about the essential quandaries of modern democracies. The recognition among both Christian and Social Democrats that state spending is too high to be sustainable and absurdly inefficient in many areas is not translated in to promises to do something about it.

Neither party is really sure that the electorate wants change. Herr Kohl presents himself on posters with the bland self-endorsement, "world-class chancellor", a reference borrowed from adverts for Mercedes-Benz, the most widely accepted guarantee of quality and admiration. After 16 years and a term in office, marked by failure to push through tax and other long-delayed reforms, the CDU is not the smooth ride it used to be.

The parallel with the last British election has been inevitable: a party grown tired in power challenged by a fresh face prepared to dispense with the more restrictive pieties of his own party. Around Herr Schröder cohere prominent figures of the 1968 upheavals who did not succumb to the lunacies of terrorism or end up as



**ANNE MCELVOY**  
Early comparisons with Blair, pursued by Schröder himself, are turning out to be something of a burden

muesli-crunching malcontents talking endlessly about the need for grass-roots alternatives.

As in Blair's Britain, an ambitious, long-thwarted tribe can glimpse power. But while Blair, for all his superstitious caution about the 1997 election was always pretty confident about winning it, the German Social Democrats cannot be so sure of their fate in three weeks' time. A PR system leaves inordinate power with small parties. This election is something of a lucky dip. Whether Schröder can form his desired coalition with the Greens may depend solely on whether the east German Communists make it in to parliament.

Chancellor Kohl is much stronger than Major in his own party and has not had the uncomfortable role of matricide to contend with - an element which complicated John Major's post-Thatcher leadership from the start. Unlike Major, whose poll ratings remained flat as a pancake throughout

a hopeless Tory campaign, Kohl's is recovering steadily, if probably not fast enough to guarantee anything better than a grand coalition - in which case he would quit.

Schröder, meanwhile, is less sovereign than Tony Blair. The SPD accepted him grudgingly as leader without the kind of fight for the soul of the party that Blair risked with the Labour Party over Clause Four. That leaves him open to the accusation that he is simply an opportunist, with no great crusade before or in front of him.

Debating with his rival, Kohl has complained, is like "nailing a pudding to the wall". Vagueness is Schröder's guiding principle; no sooner have you listened to one of his speeches than you feel, like a Chinese meal, that it is time for another.

The SPD has borrowed New Labour's pledge card and even the old trick of promising to reduce youth unemployment by 100,000 - which should hardly be difficult, given that Germany is emerging from recession. Otherwise the challenger's real message is "change without alteration".

Early comparisons with Blair, as Schröder pursued by Schröder himself, are turning out to be something of a burden: as wearisome as being measured beside a flawless cousin, whose own shortcomings are too distant for German voters to perceive.

Most importantly for Blair's own future calculations, Schröder's reservations about the single currency have given way to an endorsement of the Euro - but one which is less heartfelt and more prosaic about the weakness of the project than the present political leaders.

He describes the Euro as a fait accompli without ever saying that he wanted it in the first place - which he did not.

While Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, unguardedly announces that "the Euro speaks German" - a quote which will not have gone unresented in France - Schröder hedges around his backing for EMU with talk of "further exertions" and "difficulties". So if the single currency does have a storm-tossed early period, Schröder's approach will be more managerial and less philosophical than the overblown and uncritical enthusiasm of "EMU at any price" evinced of Kohl and Waigel.

The centre of gravity of the European debate would move towards the continued viability of the continent's united economic future and away from the commitment to political union which was Kohl and François Mitterrand's original reason for pursuing a swift single currency.

The consequences of this switch in emphasis will be welcome to people like me who dislike the forced and opaque manner in which the EU has pursued deeper integration.

It will expose the Euro to the same judgmental criteria as any other economic and monetary project - a development which will test more rigorously New Labour's arguments on what should constitute sufficient reason for joining.

There will also be fewer excuses, greater anger and a markedly decreased German readiness to carry the costs if the project goes wrong. A Chancellor Schröder has no intention of being the fall guy for ex-Chancellor Kohl's European dream.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The game has already moved away from the true fans and this type of thing just dilutes the passion even more."  
Tommy Docherty,  
former Manchester United manager,  
on the Murdoch buy-out

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"There is always a limit to self-indulgence, but none to self-restraint."  
Mahatma Gandhi

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THIS VISIT has crowned this process of increasingly positive American involvement in the Northern Ireland crisis. There have, it is true, been criticisms - in this state rather than in Northern Ireland - of other aspects of US policy elsewhere in the world, in particular of the bombing of Sudan and Afghanistan. There is little public support here for that kind of unilateral action, and in other circumstances, an Irish government might have expressed concern at this action. But in

the light of the most positive role President Clinton has played in relation to Northern Ireland, realpolitik has imposed reticence on this issue. *Irish Times*

THIS HAS been an important week for Ireland and another memorable one for President Clinton. Whatever the worries about hype, the visit to Omagh has played an important part in the healing process for the injured, the bereaved and their families. It was unfortunate (if

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
The Irish press assesses Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland



predictable) that some reporters exploited a photocall to question the President on Monica Lewinsky. It had no bearing on the purpose of his visit, or its importance. Some in the

United States are obsessed by this matter - over which the president has already made his apologies. Their motivation may be to destroy Mr Clinton, but, rather than diminishing

THE HISTORIC ties between America and Ireland are unique, and Mr Clinton has played no small part in strengthening them. It is to be hoped that the momentum for

peace, which has been in no small way helped by the American juggernaut, is unstoppable, but whether, as Mr Clinton so confidently asserts, the nightmare is over and dreams can begin remains to be seen. One way or another we can all sleep a good deal easier because of Mr Clinton's efforts. It is too early to countenance writing his political obituary, but Northern Ireland will surely be featured amongst the prizes of his achievements. *Irish Independent*



## PANDORA

WITH THE nation's attention focussed on Rupert Murdoch's plans for English football, there is not much time left to worry about what the omnivorous tycoon is doing in the rest of the world.

Take Russia, for example. As we reported in this newspaper on Thursday, one of the key power brokers in Moscow is Boris Berezovsky, who influenced Yeltsin's decision to sack his cabinet and re-appoint Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister, then suddenly seemed to disown them both.

According to the *New York Times*, Berezovsky is "a capitalist in the image of Commodore Vanderbilt", a 1996 issue of *Forbes* profiled him under the headline "Godfather of the Kremlin?" and investigated alleged links with the Russian mafia.

What is the Murdoch connection? Last spring Murdoch spent about \$80 million buying control of a large Russian telecommunications company called PLD Telekom, then sold a large portion of his shares to one of Berezovsky's companies. In July, Rupert invited Berezovsky to his annual Sun Valley media fest. Perhaps we'll be seeing a joint bid for Dynamo Moscow soon?

TONIGHT Old Labour and New Labour will be mixing in style at the Red Fort restaurant on Dean Street for a charity evening on behalf of One World Action. Glenys Kinnock is the anti-poverty charity's president, the Red Fort is owned by Amin Ali and guests will include New Labour stalwarts Lord Hollick and Helena Kennedy QC along with "special guest" Neil Kinnock (pictured). When Pandora rang to ask if the evening required formal attire, a spokesperson said, "No, I don't think so. Can you imagine Neil Kinnock in a dinner jacket?" Who wants to imagine?

WAS JESUS an Egyptian? That's the contention of Ahmed Osman, whose new book *Out of Egypt: The Roots of Christianity Revealed* was launched last week at an Egyptian embassy reception that Pandora attended. In chatting with the author, the question was raised whether Britain's most famous Egyptian, Mohamed al-Fayed, subscribed to Osman's theory. Osman said, he doubted that, since Mr Fayed "has a very Orthodox Muslim background. He doesn't have a cultural background



in philosophy or history". By this point it was clear that no alcohol was going to be served. Was the Egyptian Jesus also a Baptist?

WHAT IS the glossiest luxury goods catalogue in the UK? No, not Harrods or Harvey Nichols, but the new Chelsea Football Club Official Merchandise Brochure. From gold jewellery to bed linen, adult luggage to infant wear, golf balls to frying pans, the catalogue offers consumers the opportunity to live the total "Blue" lifestyle. There are two collectors' items that Pandora finds absolutely irresistible. First, a £295 "limited edition" print of the whole FA Cup winning 1997 squad featuring the enlarged portrait and actual signature of Ron Galt. Second, a flask of "CFC One" scent "for men and women" to ensure that owner Ken Bates' vision for Chelsea pervades even those most romantic moments. As one of the catalogue's teeshirts declares that "Chelsea women do it better", can we conclude that they're more fragrant too?

WASHINGTON WAS not just twittering over the latest batch of Clinton jokes last week. According to one of Pandora's local sources, with Clinton abroad, the American capital was awash with outlandish rumours, many passed along by Democratic Congressmen who fear that they will lose their seats in November's elections. These included one about "seven interns" and, most bizarre of all, one about the "stain" on Monica's dress. By now, apparently most of the city believes that some sort of body fluid was discovered by the FBI laboratory; the donor is still unknown. However,

the latest gossip says that the fluid itself tested positive for drug usage. What's next - Jerry Springer for President?

## Britain's most hated couple to wed



HUNTER DAVIES

The fans, as Manchester United showed when merchandising became king, are peripheral

He is already the Most Hated Man in Britain, except of course in those sections of the media which he happens to own. Now he is buying the Most Hated Club in Britain. It's a brilliant double.

Well done Rupert. If you are going to be disliked, might as well do it properly. And I wonder about Man United. The progression is logical, once

they went helter-skelter in to marketing. It was about five years ago that they first reached the point when they were making more money from merchandising and stuff than through the turnstiles. It immediately turned the whole notion of a football club on its head - making the people paying to watch the team, ie the supporters, less important than the people willing to pay for the name of the club, ie the sponsors.

I did a TV programme about it, *J'accuse*, ridiculing this madness, this *Alice in Wonderland* situation, and got a load of hate mail from Man United fans.

This is now the result. Once making money from the name becomes the dominant activity, you might as well sell the whole product, and make the ultimate killing.

Football clubs are now stock exchange listed, so greed for money wins. Is there any other reason why the Manchester United directors are selling out?

They do not need to. The club is an enormous success. It makes millions. And the team itself is currently excellent. There I said it. So

no hate mail, please. They have the best collection of players in the UK. There is no one Man United could not buy, could not attract, if they really wanted to. So why sell out? How can the club be made better by this deal? It makes no sense except money sense.

The reasons for Mr Murdoch's interest make total sense - and are also based on greed.

He wants Man United to give him access, power and leverage in the TV global battles ahead. Sky executives go on all the time about their success being based on multi channels, offering choice, all of which is bollocks. The reason Sky has become such a success today is football. It's football wot's done it. The rest is window dressing.

I blame myself I subscribe to Sky in London and in Lakeland, where I am at present, purely to watch the football. Which it does brilliantly.

I said it, there, so no hate mail from Sky. I have never, ever switched on any other Sky channel, except Sport. Or even watched any other sports, except football. I must be potty. Paying double, watching so little. Yet I am sure there are mil-

lions like me. It is football I worry about. We can do nothing about the new people arriving in football. For over a century, our clubs were run by local butchers and bakers, usually with family connections, who were in it for the local glory, not the money. Martin Edwards himself is part of that dying breed - a whole-sale butcher at one time, whose shares originally came through his dad.

The next stage is for football to be run by investment groups or multi-national organisations, which see a top football club as part of their portfolio. And this is where the worry lies.

If football is a business, bought for purely business reasons, then by the same token, it will be sold for business reasons. When the shares drop, the accountants will say get out. When re-organisations or take-overs arrive, someone will say, "football is not our core business, let's get shot of it". When Murdoch dies, his empire is bound to be split up, sold off in job lots.

This might not necessarily be bad or good for football. Just the end of football, as we have known it...

## We have reached the limits of trial by television



TREVOR PHILLIPS

TV has developed a taste for celebrity thugs; the hard-man image they project goes down well

IT'S A fact of journalistic life. Every now and again, it's your job to deal with the sort of human being you'd rather scrape off the bottom of your shoe. Into this bracket might fall child molesters, drug dealers and racist murderers. We can now add policemen whose bigotry allows black men to die in suspicious circumstances without any semblance of an investigation. However, if such encounters will tell a member of the public something, he or she needs to know that's the job.

The news that *Panorama* and London News Network have been in conversation with the five men who were suspects in the killing of Stephen Lawrence should not surprise us. As an employee of both the BBC and LNN, I do of course have an interest. But since it is unlikely that anyone would invite me to conduct such an interview, I can comfortably say that I can look at this dispassionately.

The immediate reaction of most black Britons is predictable. The Lawrence family has indicated its distress at the idea, on the grounds that the men had every opportunity to tell their story in court and chose not to do so. The former British National Party whistle-blower, Matthew Collins, has told the BBC that interviewing the men on prime time television would be a waste of licence-payers' money.

However, it is reasonable for journalists to ask whether such an interview will add anything to the knowledge we already have from the inquest and inquiry into the case. The broadcasters are promising tough, impartial interrogation. They say that if anything can be uncovered they will find it. It is even rumoured that the BBC has some new information, possibly a new witness to throw into the pot. Encouragingly for all the journalists, it is being put

about that the men now regret taking their lawyers' advice to remain silent at the inquest and feel that "their side of the story" has not been told. They it seems, had collectively decided that it was time to find a channel through which to proclaim their innocence.

There are some difficulties with this approach. First, the men have yet to offer a convincing explanation for their behaviour; shown on secret police video tapes, which showed them acting out graphic violence with a variety of lethal weapons, and abusing black and Asian people with venom. Let me remind you of David Norris's jokes: "The coon's got knackered up... if I were going to kill myself, I would kill every black c\*\*\*... skin the black c\*\*\* alive, torture him and set him alight. I would blow his two legs and arms off and say 'Go on, you can swim home now'." It is hard to think what he would say in an interview that would explain the joke - it is said that the men claimed that they were simply "mucking about".

Second, the nagging question: if

the five men have a story, why have they not told it before? If they simply want to say that they weren't there at the time and can offer an alibi, why not simply go to the police now and say so?

If they cannot clear themselves in this way, does anyone genuinely expect them to incriminate themselves on television? If, on the other hand they intend to say that they were in the area and have some evidence that would point the finger elsewhere, do they expect us to sympathise with them, after having put the Lawrence through five years of unnecessary anguish? I believe in forgiveness, but that's a level of tolerance that only the Almighty could afford.

All that said, I would not expect the journalists to pass up an opportunity just in case there is a new revelation. The sad thing is that now the men have engaged the attentions of the publicist Max Clifford, they will get best advice possible about how to protect themselves and their own reputations, even if that is at the expense of justice. TV has now developed a taste for celebrity thugs, and whether these men are guilty or not, the "hard man" image they have projected so far goes down well with a certain section of the TV audience.

Their swaggering appearance at the inquest was just a taste of what is to come once they are guided by Clifford into TV and radio interviews, followed by book deals and the chat-show circuit. In a sense they are bidding to be the heirs of the Krays and their associates, two of whom - the late Lennie McLean and "Mad" Frankie Frazer - have recently done the rounds of the talk shows.

Max Clifford is now entertaining bids for the story, and he will choose the vehicle that offers the men the best chance of emerging as under-world stars. ITV has not helped its



Angry scenes outside the Stephen Lawrence inquiry

own chances; according to LNN boss Simon Bucks, there will be no deals and no softball. It is the right thing for Bucks to say, but given that LNN has covered the story consistently and even-handedly for five years, the interrogation would be based on a deep knowledge of the case and would be fundamentally journalistic. If the men genuinely wanted to gain credibility and add to the process of finding the truth, they would choose this option.

Martin Bashir, who has been much maligned this week, is no patsy. Before that interview he was known as an annoyingly persistent investigator, who was responsible for turning up much damaging evidence about Terry Venables's business dealings. As far as I can recall, *Panorama* has not previously covered the Lawrence affair and will no doubt be accused of parachuting into a story of which it knows little. It is, however, rumoured that the programme has new material to offer, indicating that Stephen Lawrence was the victim of mistaken identity. But whatever he has on the story,

Bashir's career has become yet another victim in the Diana story, already littered with dozens of shattered reputations. Fairly or unfairly, he is no longer judged by the standards of other reporters. His interviews have to be bigger and more revealing than anyone else's. However tough he intends to be, unless he can produce incontrovertible evidence of guilt, he will never satisfy his critics; and his own credibility will give the five creeps a credibility that they do not deserve in any circumstances. It is a desperately bad position for him to be in, and not his fault. In the *Louise Woodward* case, very little hung on the final outcome; but when it comes to Stephen Lawrence, there is still too much that is too important to too many people to treat this as just another TV event.

If we are to reach the truth, find the culprits and change the behaviour of the police, the affair should not be clouded by the "Bashir effect". That is, of course why we can expect to see the five on television one Monday night soon.

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## Ulster is an inspiration to the world

HILLARY AND I are proud to be in a place that is a spiritual home to Irish people of both religious traditions and to millions of Irish Americans as well. Armagh is a city on a hill in every sense. Your faith and tolerance are making a new era of peace possible. For yourselves and all the world, in every act of genuine reconciliation you renew confidence that decency can triumph over hatred. You have inspired the rest of us to aim a little higher.

I am tempted in this city of saints and cathedrals to call the peace of 1998 a miracle. Nonetheless, I think you would all agree that at least in the normal sense in which we use the word, the peace of Good Friday was not a miracle. You did it yourselves.

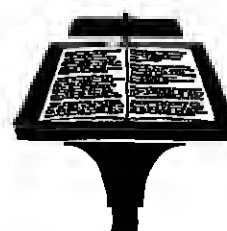
It rose from the public's passionate demand to take a different course. It came about from the hard work of leaders like David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, from the leaders of the other parties, from Tony Blair and the Irish Prime Minister as well. It came from honest debate. And again, it came loud and clear from an overwhelming vote of the people for peace.

It is you who have told your leaders that you long for peace as never before. You gave them the confidence to move forward, to give up the past, and speak the language of the future. Armagh has stood for these better aspirations throughout its long history.

Today, the two cathedrals that dominate the landscape stand for the idea that communion is better than destructive competition. Two proud traditions can exist side by side, bringing people closer to God and closer to each other.

Here, there have been difficulties, as elsewhere. But the historic streets of this old town remind us of a fundamental fact about your community: Armagh literally encircles its many traditions in a single community. That is what Northern Ireland must do if you want the future of peace and prosperity that belongs to the children in this crowd tonight.

As you look ahead, to be sure, in this peace process there will be false steps and disappointments. The question is not if the peace will be challenged - you know it will. The question is, how will you respond when it is challenged.



PODIUM

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Taken from the President's speech to 'A Gathering for Peace' in Armagh last week

You don't have to look too far.

The bomb that tore at the heart of Omagh was a blatant attack on all of Northern Ireland's people who support peace. But it backfired.

Out of the unimaginably horrible agony of Omagh, the people said, it is high time somebody told these people that we are through with hate, through with war, through with destruction. It will not work any more.

When I go now to other troubled places I point to you as proof that peace is not an idle daydream, for your peace is real, and it resonates around the world. It echoes in the ears of people hungry for the end of strife in their own country. Never underestimate the impact you can have on the world.

The great English poet and clergyman, John Donne, wrote, "No man is an island. We are all a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

Tonight we might even say in this inter-connected island that not even Ireland is fully an island. On this island, Northern Ireland obviously is connected in ways to the Republic, as well as to England, Scotland, and Wales - and, in ways, the Republic of Ireland is connected to them also.

All of you on this island increasingly are connected to Europe and to the rest of the world, as ideas and information and people fly across the globe at record speeds. We are tied ever closer together, and we have obligations now that we cannot shirk, to stand for the cause of human dignity everywhere.

We Americans will do what

we can to support the peace - to support economic projects, to support education projects. We know we have an obligation to you because your ancestors were such a source of strength in America's early history. Because their descendants are building America's future today, because of all that, we have not forgotten our debt to Ulster.

Thank you for reminding us of one of life's most important lessons, that it is never too late for a new beginning. You will be tested again and again, but a God of grace has given you a new beginning. Now you must make the most of it, mindful of President Kennedy's adage that here on Earth God's work must truly be our own. Your work is the world's work.

Everywhere, in every corner, there are people who long to believe in our better selves, who want to be able to say for the rest of their lives, in the face of any act of madness born of hatred over religious or racial or ethnic or tribal differences - they want to be able to shake their fists in defiance and say, do not tell me it has to be this way, look at Northern Ireland.

July 11 2015



# Lady Luck and my sorry ass



**JOHN WALSH**  
*I was undoubtedly  
the only person in  
Las Vegas wearing  
patterned wool socks*

**Las Vegas**  
THE FAT man in the loud monochrome shirt is becoming pretty noisy himself. He is seated on the last of the six chairs that make up a sweating horseshoe of punters, being dealt cards by a suave Latin called Thomas in a Paul Raymond hairstyle. The fat man has been winning so much - judging by the messy shingle of plastic doubloons in front of him - he doesn't know whether to be cock-of-the-walk or afraid that his luck's running out.

He has been lecturing his fellow gamblers on how they should play blackjack, and whether you should stick on 15, 16 or 17 or buy another card and try to keep their score under 21. He shouts "Don't be afraid of it!" at the woman holding 15. To a desperate-looking trucker in a red T-shirt and a neck to match, who is dithering over whether to twist on 17, he yells, "That's a real no-brainer, right there!". He peeps at the two cards he's been dealt, sliding down the nine of clubs with infinite slowness to reveal what Destiny is offering: his second card is the six of diamonds.

He's on 15. It could be worse. It could be far better. He pushes 300 dollars' worth of gambling chips forward with his porky fingers, sucks his cigarette right back inside his mouth like it's a burning lollipop, and says, "I'll settle for a shave". Thomas tucks a third card face-down under the three chips, and deals out cards to the others. Finally he flips over his own hand: two queens, 20 points. Can they beat that? The others are all busted, but the fat man hasn't looked at his final card, hasn't checked the final magic sum that will reveal how much Lady Luck smiles on his sorry ass.

"Do it for me, boy," he tells the croupier (who, fortunately, isn't black). Thomas flips it over. It's the six of hearts. It's like a love-note from Her Ladyship in person.

The fat man lets out a whoop of joy and high-fives a formal Japanese called Mike at the end of the row. Mike is tired of being given high-fives by this ebullient low-life who keeps on winning, the dealer is frankly weary of him, the waitress in the tulle and fishnets is heartily sick of his clicking fingers, but the crowd love him because he is a) a winner, b) a performer and c) a



The New York New York Hotel is but one of Las Vegas's extravagant theme hostilities

winder-upper of the establishment.

"What's happened to the cheerin' crowd?" he asks. "C'mon..." And he looks round at us, the bloated hero regarding his indulgent public, and starts to sing: "Somethin' tells me Ah'm into somethin' good".

It's 3.30 in the afternoon. There's no daylight in here, no clocks to suggest a deadline or the passage of time, no distinction of day or night, and no mirrors to tell you how shagged-out you're starting to look. Just the fall of cards, the whoops and high-fives and the indefatigable smile of the girls chasing tips.

Of all the dizzy-making sights of Las Vegas, this is what it all comes down to: someone being lucky and beating the system. For this simple alestoric transaction, 32 million people come every year to this crackpot nirvana, this spun-sugar utopia, this mercurial necropolis of taste in the middle of the Nevada desert, stand in these vast aircraft-hanger-sized casino lounges feeding the endlessly cheeping fruit machines as if they were hungry osprey chicks, lingering at the roulette tables where the minimum stake is 10 dollars - then, at the table next door, it's 50 dollars - then, at the fat

man's table, it's 100 dollars, and you're in trouble...

DID I get suckered into it? Of course not. What a suggestion. But after inspecting the Rio Casino and the Monte Carlo, and a few others - there are even slot machines in the airport, before you get to baggage reclaim - and traipsed the miles of shockingly coloured carpet, as jackpot sirens went off and machines disgorged thousands of dollars with a sexy, relentless thumping, I felt I might be missing the point of Vegas. I felt a little out of place anyway, in my sensible shoes and sports jacket, like Prince Harry at a Prodigy concert, when everyone was wearing the regulation uniform of shorts, trainers and floppy shirt. I was undoubtedly the only person in Las Vegas wearing patterned wool socks.

Shyly, I found two quarters in my pocket and fed one into a winking robot emblazoned with coloured sevens. The dials whirled but nothing happened. You see? I thought. Hopeless. I dropped in the last quarter, just for the hell of it, and the thing blazed with life. I'd won - good

heavens - 15 tokens. I'd suddenly acquired \$3.75 in unearned income.

Reasoning that the machine had shot its bolt for a while, I moved onto a second, and won five more tokens. Then onto a third machine and won five more. I looked over my shoulder. Would I shortly feel the heavy hand of the Management on my arm, and a voice grating "I'm gonna be straight with you, son. We bin watching you and we reckon you're playin' to some kind of system. We can't rightly tell what it is, but Ah suggest you take your winnings and git out of town while you can still walk"? Sensibly, I quit before they came to get me. But I'm off to the Rio tonight...

READERS OF Julian Barnes's new novel, *England, England*, in which a corrupt tycoon builds an English heritage theme park on the Isle of Wight, may have smiled at the idea of building a hundred simulacra of Big Ben, Buck House, the White Cliffs of Dover, Sherwood Forest and other embodiments of Albion, but reasoned that nobody would be mad enough actually to do such a thing. They should come to Las Vegas.

The place is stiff with ersatz monuments. The New York New York Hotel offers jetlagged visitors the odd experience of seeing a half-size Statue of Liberty, Chrysler Building and Empire State Building looming down the street in front of them. Drive down the main drag and you can make out the four iron legs of a soaring and strangely familiar laticed tower; beside it, through a tangle of scaffolding, a rectangular block with a triumphant-looking arch can be seen. Hardly have you digested, half a mile later, that they were France's two most famous monuments rising up before your eyes than you drive past a new, apricot-hued hotel featuring a graceful palazzo of arches...

They're both opening in 1999. The former will be the Paris Casino Resort, a \$750m extravaganza masterminded by Hilton Hotels. Alongside the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe, they're providing replicas of the whole Champs Elysée, the Opera House and a handy-sized River Seine (not to mention the Jules Verne restaurant).

The latter will be even more dotily elaborate. The Venetian Resort Hotel Casino, on the site of the old

Sands Hotel where Sinatra and his Rat Pack used to knock 'em dead in 1960, will be a \$2.5 billion, 6,000-suite monstrosity full of hits of La Serenissima - the Doge's Palace is just the start. You'll go in through a scaled-down Campanile and travel along a moving walkway over the Rialto Bridge. The more adventurous can take a gondola (and be serenaded in Italian, they assure me) along a 1,200-foot canal that leads them to the Grand Canal Shoppes (sic).

There's no telling where this tendency may lead. Those expecting an England-themed complex may be disappointed, since there are already a number of wholly fake "English pubs" glutting the market (there's one in my hotel; it seems to have cobbles on the floor). After New York, Paris and Venice, will there be smaller versions of Berlin, Rome, Prague, Edinburgh, Barcelona, Dublin, Beijing and Tokyo? When they're all exhausted, perhaps the hotel companies will turn to the most flowingly fake-able city of all and put up a shrunken version of Las Vegas in the heart of Las Vegas. Or would that be just too silly?

## RIGHT OF REPLY

JOHN CARR



A member of Internet Watch, the industry watchdog, argues for regulating the World Wide Web

SIMON DAVIES' piece ("Make it safe, but keep it free", 4 September) is drenched in a sense of nostalgic whimsy for an Internet which no longer exists.

In the dim and distant past, say 1992, there were probably no more than 200,000 Internet users in the entire world, almost all of them found within or around the universities and the research communities. Frankly what this small, select band got up to with its slow, user-unfriendly computer links was of very little interest or importance to anyone but itself. It was a prelapsarian idyll in which a co-operative, not-for-profit community neither needed nor sought any external regulation.

Today the Internet is reaching out for mass-media status. It is on a trajectory that will make it as ubiquitous as the telephones and televisions with which it will merge. There are already over 120 million Internet users world-wide, six million in the UK alone. By 2001 the global figure will have doubled and be on an even faster-climbing curve.

The Internet is every bit as significant as the road and rail network or the National Health Service.

Thus it is hardly surprising that governments, and all sorts of interest groups, are revisiting and re-examining the fundamental basis on which the Internet has operated hitherto. The Internet is a modern marvel but it is still in its technological infancy. It has brought in its wake a series of major problems, some of which touch and concern the health, welfare and physical safety of our children.

These problems can be solved but only if, rather than going in to denial or erecting paranoid smokecreens about the wickedness which governments might get up to in the future, we should focus on what needs to be done now to set those ills aright.

## On the rocky road to love

WITH DIVORCE rates in Britain and the US breaking records, the question posed by the American psychiatrist Peter Kramer's new book, *Should You Leave?*, is hauntingly relevant. This collection of vignettes about troubled couples, with its sharply focused analysis of their problems and suggestions about how they can learn to help themselves, is a refreshing exploration of a contemporary conundrum. It centres on that vexed question that often erupts after years of ordinary happiness. As the Clash song so succinctly described it: "If I stay there will be trouble, if I go it will be double."

Kramer, the author of *Listening to Prozac*, breaks fresh ground in his psychiatric writing. His courage in tackling the issue of whether an individual's personality is fundamentally altered by taking an anti-depressant drug kept his *Prozac* book on the US best-seller lists for months.

Now he departs from the standard hands-off, psychotherapeutic approach to enter the sticky territory of dispensing advice on marital relationships. But this is a far cry from such bland and patronising self-help hibles as *Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus* or *Women Who Love Too Much*, with their cosy language and behavioural check lists. Instead, Kramer uses fictional portraits of individual marriages to weave a comprehensive theory of how couples relate to each other, and where things go wrong between them.

En route, he suggests tools for self-analysis and understanding, with signposts for further reading. There is much nourishing food for thought here. Kramer suggests that, with couples, the real workings of the relationship are often hidden. But, despite the despair they can invoke in each other, couples are often a far better psychological match than they care to admit or are able to recognise.

He attempts to find ways of helping people to stay together, in the belief that



### MONDAY BOOK

**SHOULD YOU LEAVE?  
THE DILEMMAS OF INTIMACY**  
BY PETER D. KRAMER, GOLLANCZ, £16.99

to end a marriage and seek another partner leaves you in danger of repeating destructive patterns. "The solution is not to leave the other nor to strive to change the other," writes Kramer. "The solution is to grow."

Even in what might appear to be obvious cases, in which a couple should end a tortuous relationship, there may be other important dynamics at work. A fictionalised client, Iris, appears in Kramer's office seeking advice after she comes across a bundle of e-mails on her PC from her lover, Randall, to Bunny, a female friend. In these messages he de-

scribes Iris as impossible and over-sensitive, "a prickly pear", and reveals the most intimate details of their relationship. Iris responds to the betrayal by driving to his flat, shoving a cactus in his disk drive and baking his modem.

Should she leave? After her rage subsides, however, Iris comes to realise that Randall's actions and her reaction might be a bizarre form of courtship. They are acting out patterns familiar to them, invariably bequeathed by their respective parents. The challenge for the therapist is to separate the behaviour the couple uncon-

sciously perpetuates from the behaviour they desire to change.

Kramer offers a list of maxims: "You are not far from where you ought to be. Your choice says much about you. Change enough. Change yourself. Use the relationship as a place in which to grow. Expect discomfort."

There are situations, of course, where maxims are not enough. If Kramer detects an undiagnosed depression or anhedonia (an inability to experience pleasure), he dismisses a couple's claims of incompatibility.

In such cases, therapy should target the depression and not the marital discord. "In those predisposed to anhedonia, a modest strain in a marriage may result in a solid impediment to ordinary pleasure and then to all sorts of compensatory behaviours."

If this goes undetected, families may be torn apart and the root cause will never be addressed.

But there are also abusive relationships where there is no hope of growth. In many instances, the abused partner can only end their enslavement through a sudden flash of insight which gives them the courage to leave. This "gift", as Kramer calls it, cannot simply be handed over as advice, because this would ignore the client's problem: the inability to see beyond her situation. Only she, alone, can decide when and how to leave.

Perhaps Kramer's book marks a moment in our culture when we have come full circle.

In an age when it appears that couples find it increasingly easy to leave, his advice to stay and fight it out, to embrace the idiosyncrasies and maddening habits of your lover, appears a radical suggestion.

Whether you agree with his optimism or not, *Should You Leave?* is a vital contribution to a debate which rarely gets the intellectual attention it deserves.

JULIE WHEELWRIGHT

### MONDAY POEM

**PARTNERS**  
BY CAROLE SATYAMURTI

It was always said - she  
was the strong one,  
the emphasis implying  
something not quite natural.

It showed in her head's angle  
inherited from a line of officers  
khaki-convincing in the gallery  
of family photographs.

She always knew her mind.  
He never could decide on anything.  
After he died, people said  
she'd grown to look like him,

- as if his soul, lacking direction,  
had managed a short hop  
and settled in that softening jaw,  
that bewilderment behind the eyes.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Carole Satyamurti's new volume of 'Selected Poems' (Oxford University Press, £9.99)



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# Akira Kurosawa

AKIRA KUROSAWA'S memoir, *Something Like an Autobiography*, published in 1982, concludes with a series of aphoristic notes on film-making, the very first of which it might be worth quoting in its entirety.

WHAT IS CINEMA? The answer to this question is no easy matter. Long ago the Japanese novelist Shiga Naoya presented an essay written by his grandchild as one of the most remarkable prose pieces of his time. He had it published in a literary magazine. It was entitled "My Dog", and ran as follows: "My dog resembles a bear; he also resembles a badger; he also resembles a fox..." It proceeded to enumerate the dog's special characteristics, comparing each one to yet another animal, developing into a full list of the animal kingdom. However, the essay closed with, "But since he's a dog, he most resembles a dog."

I remember bursting out laughing when I read this essay, but it makes a serious point. Cinema resembles so many other arts. If cinema has very literary characteristics, it also has theatrical qualities, a philosophical side, attributes of painting and sculpture and musical elements. But cinema is, in the final analysis, cinema.

If there exists a cinema to which all of these attributes pertain, one which nevertheless remains supremely cinematic, it is that of Kurosawa himself. In a career spanning 50 years he made several films of literary inspiration, including adaptations of Dostoevsky (*The Idiot*), Gorky (*The Lower Depths*) and Shakespeare (*Throne of Blood*), a chillingly powerful version of *Macbeth*, others which consciously emphasised a fundamental and pervasive theatricality through the use of stylised studio sets (e.g. *Dodes 'Ka-Den*, 1970), others belonging to what Westerners would regard as an odd European tradition of philosophical humanism (e.g. *Ikiru*, 1952), a memorable portrait of a dying man's last, humanitarian gesture and still others for whose multicoloured, sumptuously composed visuals the most accurate term would be "painterly" (e.g. *Kagemusha*, 1980).

Nor could one deny the sculptural or musical qualities of his films, whether in the powerful physicality with which almost all of his protagonists have been invested (e.g. the feudal overlord of *Ran*, 1985, spidily caparisoned like a beseeching insect) or in his deployment of narrative threads within a film like leitmotifs (e.g. the quartet of fugally inter-related versions of the "truth" in *Rashomon*, 1950).

It was *Rashomon* which, at the 1951 Venice Film Festival, first brought to dazzled Western eyes not only Kurosawa's own brilliance (his film was awarded the Festival's Golden Lion) but the very fact of the Japanese cinema's existence. Yet it was no less than the director's twelfth film preceded in the canon by at least one work arguably its equal, *Stray Dog* of 1949.

Kurosawa was born in Tokyo in 1910, the youngest of seven children of a veteran army officer. Having failed to make a satisfactory living for himself as a commercial artist (like Eisenstein, the film-maker whose sensibility was closest to his own, Kurosawa was a witty and incisive caricaturist), he was hired in 1936 as assistant director to Kajiro Yamamoto, who became his teacher and mentor. Graduating to the director's chair via a number of screenwriting chores, he made his debut in 1943 with *Judo Saga*, a well-received melodrama in which his notoriously finicky perfectionism was already in evidence: for a scene in which the hero suicidally leaps into a pond, the tyro director insisted that the sound made by lotus blossoms when they burst open be clearly audible.

Following the international triumph of *Rashomon*, a film often described as "Prandellian" for the way in which it explores the ambiguity of reality through the dramatisation of four mutually conflicting accounts of a single incident, Kurosawa quite simply became the most famous



Kurosawa on the set of *The Seven Samurai* (1954)

Japanese film-maker in the world (even if, for many cinephiles, his reputation was to be surpassed by those of Kenji Mizoguchi and Yasujiro Ozu). Paradoxically, the quality of his work apart, this pre-eminence has derived from the fusion of a hyper-Japanese "exoticism", founded essentially on Samurai history and folklore, with a conspicuous leaning towards Western cultural archetypes, a fusion which has made his films rather more accessible to non-Orientalists than those of his compatriots.

Thus, in such Samurai romances as *The Hidden Fortress* (1956), *Yojimbo* (1961) and *Sanjuro* (1962), there can be detected the influence (openly acknowledged by Kurosawa) of John Ford's Westerns. Conversely, one of the director's most universally admired films, *The Seven Samurai* (1954), an epic, three-hour-long tale of a maverick band of mercenaries who ride to the aid of a tiny village besieged by marauding bandits, was remade in Hollywood as *The Magnificent Seven*; and *Rashomon*, too, was subsequently Westernised (in both the geographical and generic sense of the word) as *The Outrage*, though the result in this case was notably less convincing. As for the so-called "spaghetti westerns" of Sergio Leone, they could not have been filmed without the example of Kurosawa's historical epics.

As Kurosawa's prestige increased in the West, however, it began to be eroded in his own country, to the point where, in 1971, having been virtually inactive for a decade, he made a much publicised suicide attempt. For younger Japanese film-makers, especially during the socially divisive period of the late Sixties, he had come to seem aloof and passeist, one of the most visible representatives of a detested Establishment, no longer deigning to direct his fastidiously patrician gaze at the problems besetting the society in which he lived.

For producers he was a cantan-

kerous perfectionist, fewer and fewer of whose increasingly costly films proved to be commercial successes. For audiences he had become an irrelevant anachronism. In fact, so much was Kurosawa the classic "father figure" who has to be "killed" for succeeding generations to breathe more freely, it is possible to interpret *Ran* - the film which, with *Kagemusha*, brought the director once more into the forefront

and expectancy. But when the film started, with a spectacularly cut wild boar hunt, I began to feel a lowering of spirits in the spectators. I admired the pictorial effects of composition and colour in the use of authentic historical costumes and in vivid battle scenes; but that was all. True drama was missing.

The whole movie had a heavy rhythm and an animated waxworks look. The false beards and eye-

Japanese "Mr Chips" of appalling old-fashioned sentimentality, and I distrust and resent directors who deliberately set out to bring tears to an audience's eyes. In one of his rare interviews in the popular magazines, Kurosawa stated:

I want to be known as an artisan, not as an artist. A movie should reflect its age. I made *Madadayo* because of what my granddaughter told me about her life at school today. I wanted to show what edu-

Madadayo, meaning "not yet!" which becomes the leitmotif of the movie.

Such a scene is unimaginable in present-day Japanese schools. It could hardly appeal to the younger generation, and even less to audiences abroad unfamiliar with the social setting. But a certain type of elderly Japanese likes the formalism of such movies, in which they can check from their own lives the details of how one should behave on visiting one's professor, on attending a wedding ceremony or a funeral, or a New Year's Day visit. I could sense the audience's eager eyes on the lookout for errors of etiquette. The sheer physical elements in the wearing of certain clothes and footwear were closely scrutinised, as well as the styles of speech, the modes of respectful address. In the portrayal of which Kurosawa is truly the Master. But these have little interest for Western audiences.

*Madadayo* was received fairly coolly by the critics in Japan. But it was Kurosawa's 50th anniversary in the world of film: the unforgettable *Sanshiro Sugata* was made in 1943. So there was much publicity surrounding the event, and I was fortunate to see an opulent retrospective exhibition of "The Emperor's" work in the Hankyu Department Store's art gallery in Osaka.

Kurosawa often stated that he wanted to be a painter, not a director, and always made numerous drawings and paintings in preparation for each scene in his movies. Many of these were on display, and were reproduced as posters or on T-shirts. There were coffee mugs, lighters and so on decorated with a Kurosawa silhouette, and episodes from most of his films were running on video screens along with a recent television interview. But I was struck most of all by the exquisite painted costumes used in his later historical works, and the accompanying accessories and jewellery, made with

such care and attention to detail. On the way out, there was a large photo of Kurosawa flanked by George Lucas and Steven Spielberg at the Cesar ceremony for *Kagemusha*. Spielberg had scrawled across the top in thick black marker ink: "Akira, I look at this picture and all I can see is you. With gratitude, Steven Spielberg." But in fact, when I looked at this picture, all I could see was Spielberg's ugly scrawl. It seems significant that Spielberg is said to be contemplating his own re-cut version of *Kagemusha*, along more acceptable Hollywood lines.

Kurosawa was sacked by Darryl Zanuck from *Tora Tora Tora* (1970) because of his directorial manner, utterly at variance with local style, and the movie was taken over by Richard Fleischer. In a recent book by his nephew, we are told that Kurosawa "went mad" in the 20th Century-Fox studios and smashed the display cases holding the priceless swords, soldiers' costumes and other documentary equipment he had brought with him from Japan. There were rumours of a suicide attempt on his return to Japan, but I found no evidence for this.

Certainly Kurosawa was at odds with the modern world and the cut-and-dried methods of Western studios, for he liked to do everything himself, thus offending specialists jealous of their camera angles, placing of characters, lighting, close-ups and so on.

One result of this battle with business efficiency in the art of the film was that Kurosawa became a fervent ecologist. He deplored the fact that in Japan nearly all the rivers have had their banks cemented over, so that for a vital scene in *Dreams* he had what he called "the devil of a job" to find a natural river bank. "There's no scenery left in Japan!" he growled. "It's impossible to make samurai movies there now."

He was reported to be difficult in his handling of actors. Shimura Takeshi, the cancer-ridden anti-hero of *Ikiru* (1952) said that Kurosawa worked with great intensity, creating a tension like that in a fully-drawn bow, so that actors were always wondering when the arrow of the director's anger might be released. But he admitted that in the face of any kind of incompetence the Master's anger was always justified.

Kurosawa was said to be unable to handle women characters, but the best performance in *Madadayo* comes from a beautiful veteran actress Kyoko Kagawa as the old teacher's wife, a performance of great subtlety and restraint. And in *Rhapsody in August* there was a wonderful scene of an old woman with a broken umbrella battling her way through a typhoon; she was played by Murase Sachiko. The other good actor in *Madadayo* was an enormous ginger tom-cat, totally un-selfconscious but he could not steal his scenes with Kyoko Kagawa. Kurosawa was said to love children as actors. But in his last films, the children look all-too-contemporary, and he cannot accommodate them to the historical backgrounds.

One of Kurosawa's last pronouncements came after praising the mastery of Satyajit Ray's *The Stranger* (1991), a big theme so simply handled. The Emperor declared that films with too much theorising and pretentious ideological ideas were "the bottom of the bottom" in movies. He saw the end of the world in the death of nature and the exploitation of natural resources, and declared that his last film would be on that theme, and that he would call it *The End* - the first time "The End" would appear at the beginning of a film. That touch of bitter humour illustrates well the sadness of a great director's final years.

Akira Kurosawa, film director: born Tokyo 23 March 1910; married 1945 Yoko Yaguchi (died 1985; one son, one daughter); died Tokyo 6 September 1998.

*Kurosawa's pre-eminence derived from the fusion of a hyper-Japanese 'exoticism', founded essentially on Samurai history and folklore, with a conspicuous leaning towards Western cultural archetypes, making his films more accessible to non-Orientalists than those of his compatriots*

GILBERT ADAIR

I remember with what impatience I awaited, in 1980 in Kyoto, the first early-morning showing of Kurosawa's latest film, *Kagemusha*, the first since his 1975 Russian co-production *Dersu Uzal*, writes James Kirkup. I skipped classes to do so. There was a long queue all round the movie house when I arrived there at 9.30 am for the first screening. I got one of the last seats in the front row.

People of all ages - young, middle-aged and elderly - the sort of generation-bridging audience one used to see at revivals of films by Yasujiro Ozu and Mikio Naruse, created a pleasurable sense of tension

of world cinema - as autobiographical in theme. *Ran*, it should be said, was a (surprisingly faithful) adaptation of *King Lear* transposed to medieval Japan, in which the play's ungrateful daughters had been turned, significantly, into no less ungrateful sons.

When *Madadayo* came out in April 1993, I caught an evening show in Nagoya. There were no queues round the block at 6 pm. The audience was made up almost entirely of the elderly, and no wonder: today's hard-boiled, pragmatic young know nothing about the literary, historical and social background of this film set in the periods before and just after the Pacific War. It was a

catation was like in the old days, and to set an example for teachers at the present time. We can learn a lot from their lessons, but we can learn even more if they will show their essential humility in class. Nowadays that kind of teaching is rare. The old type of friendly relationship between pupils and teacher no longer exists. Teachers now no longer visit pupils' homes, saying they have no time after classes.

From my own experience of teaching in contemporary Japan, I could appreciate in *Madadayo* the immense gap now separating the standardised learning-by-rote education of today, aimed solely at getting students through certain kinds of tests and final examinations, and the deeply humanistic teaching personified in the film by the old sensei or master in his relationship with the uniformly-dressed, impeccably-behaved pupils in their final year. When he announces his forthcoming retirement, there is the first of the tear-jerking scenes as a student stands up and begs the old teacher to go on teaching, using the word

## Keith Oxlee

KEITH OXLEE was one of the men who led South African rugby out of the doldrums at the end of the Fifties and helped to re-establish the Springboks as the top side in the world.

Having drawn the Test series with the 1955 British Lions 2-2, the Springboks were beaten 3-1 in New Zealand in 1956. Two years later they lost a home series for the first time in their history, 1-0 with a game drawn, against the French.

By the time Wilson Whineray's All Blacks landed in the Republic in 1960 an upsurge in fortunes was being demanded of the home side. The reaction from the selectors was to pick 10 new caps for the one-off match against Scotland and then a further six for the first of four international matches against the All Blacks.

Among the second wave of new recruits was a 23-year-old outside half from Natal with a reputation for

being an attacking genius. By the end of his 19 cap, record-breaking career, Oxlee had also become renowned for his goalkicking exploits.

The Springboks were facing an unprecedented fixture list at the start of the Sixties with four Tests against the All Blacks and then five more internationals on a 34 match tour of the UK, Ireland and France, all within eight months. It was make or break time for the Springboks. The team came through with flying colours, winning two and drawing one of the four Tests against New Zealand and then beating the Home Countries before drawing with France. Oxlee established himself as a master tactician and one of the best outside halves in the world.

Perhaps the best player to assess Oxlee's abilities is John Gainsford, the man who played alongside him at centre for the Springboks in all

his 19 international appearances. "People have always associated Keith with the running game and the magnificent part he played in fostering it. I disagree with them to a point," Gainsford said.

Where Keith showed his true value and greatness was when the going was tough and his side was under pressure. You would see them coming for you, and you knew it was going to be rough. But when you had Keith there as your outside half you knew that all would be well. I played next to him in all his Tests and I can vouch for his courage and commitment. He took the knocks and he never gave me anything but clean ball. He would rather take the heat than pass it on to his team-mates. That for me was the mark of greatness. He was the finest I ever played with."

Oxlee scored two of his then record five tries for a South African outside half in that 1960 series victory over the All Blacks. At that stage of his career the man who revolutionised Natal Collegians and Natal

sides with his thrilling, daring style was not seen as a recognised goalkicker.

All that changed later in the year when he found himself pressed into emergency duty at a rain-soaked Cardiff Arms Park against Wales. With his regular kicker Dick Locyker ruled out through injury, the Springbok captain Avril Malan tossed the ball to Oxlee and hoped for the best.

Amid 50 mph gales, he missed with his opening two kicks before landing his third shortly before half-time. It proved to be the only score of the game and helped to launch a whitewash of Home Unions in the Test series.

Over the next five years Oxlee hoisted his Test points tally to 88 to smash Gerry Brand's record of 55 that had stood for 24 years from 1928. Even today he lies in fifth place on the Springboks all-time scoring list.

In 1962, Oxlee broke the Springboks' record for the number of points in a match, as well as the hearts of Arthur Smith's British Lions, when he kicked five conversions and two penalties - earning 16 points - in the fourth Test as the tourists were beaten 34-14 in Bloemfontein. That record stood until 1981 when Naas Botha scored 20 points against New Zealand in Wellington.

But many remember Oxlee's feats against the Wallabies at Ellis Park in 1961 as his finest hour. Some 60,000 fans gave the master a rousing standing ovation when ambulance men helped him from the field after a spectacular final-minute try that bumped the home score up to a record-breaking 28-3.

Oxlee had taken a succession of heavy knocks but had refused to leave the field. He received stitches as early as the fourth minute for a nasty gash above his eye and to-

wards the end of the match was in such a daze that he had to move to centre. Lesser players would have hampered their team's cause by remaining on the field in such a mess but Oxlee's instinctive genius prevailed throughout the match and he was the architect of wave after wave of creative attacks.

Keith Oxlee was a supremely fit sportsman throughout his life. Following a rugby career spanning 1955 to 1971, in which he made 102 appearances for Natal, he went on to complete two Comrades Marathons - 52 miles from Durban to Pietermaritzburg - and became an accomplished lawn bowler.

ROB COLES

Keith Oxlee, rugby player and chemical salesman: born Johannesburg 17 December 1934; married (one son, one daughter); died 31 August 1998.



JPV 100 1520



# The Countess of Oxford and Asquith

ANN OXFORD led an adventurous and varied life until well past middle age. She was the daughter of a diplomat, and grew up in Japan, China and Bucharest, among other places; helping her father decode his diplomatic messages led eventually to code-breaking work at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. Later, in the WAAF, she was posted to Palestine, and her travelling continued as the wife of a colonial governor in Libya, Zanzibar, St Lucia and the Seychelles.

As well as her great physical beauty, she was remarkable for her independence and originality of mind, and for the high standards of behaviour and manners which she set herself, and expected of others, though this in no way reduced her sometimes irreverent sense of fun and amusement. Another characteristic was her spontaneous generosity: visiting a newly married nephew, she immediately handed his wife a dress which she had just bought for herself, as well as the handsome wedding present that she had brought with her.

She was born Anne Mary Celestine Palaret, in Paris in 1916, soon after her parents had been received into the Catholic Church together in Notre Dame. She inherited from them a vigorous faith which was to remain her guiding light, and helped her to bear the cruel disablement she suffered in her later years as a result of two serious road accidents. Her mother, born Mary Studd, was a considerable beauty who was painted by Augustus John. Her father, (later Sir) Michael Palaret, was a diplomat of natural distinction, related to the two famous Somerset cricketers brothers L.C.H. and R.C.N. Palaret; but Ann would become a little weary of inquiries about these old heroes. She also had an improbable pair of connections of her mother's, the practical joker Horace de Vere Cole, and Mrs Neville Chamberlain.

Anne spent part of her childhood at the home of her maternal grandmother in Ireland, and she retained a slight nostalgia for the Irish lifestyle of that time. But at the age of six she was taken with her parents to two postings in the Far East, where they survived the great earthquake at Tokyo in 1923 in which 300,000 people perished, and the Civil War in China soon afterwards. From 1929 to 1935 the family were in Bucharest when her father was Minister at the British Legation, and where she learned French at the Lycée and took the first part of her baccalauréat. Sixty years later, when her son-in-law was posted to Romania, she greatly enjoyed revisiting her old home in the capital.

When her parents were next posted to Stockholm, she finished her schooling in Paris before going on to St Anne's College, Oxford, where she met her future husband, Julian, the son of Raymond and Katharine Asquith, and

grandson of the Prime Minister. His father had been killed in the First World War, and he had as a schoolboy succeeded him as second Earl of Oxford & Asquith in 1928.

When the war came, she was with her parents at the Legation in Athens. After the Germans invaded, they were evacuated, in company with the King, first to Crete, where they lived for a time in a cave, then to Egypt, and later to South Africa, along with the Greek government in exile.

When they succeeded in returning to England, Anne Palaret's acute intelligence, together with her experience in decoding diplomatic messages for her father, equipped her admirably for code-breaking work at Bletchley Park. Later, she joined the WAAF and tracked German air raids. In 1945 she was posted to Palestine, and very narrowly escaped the bomb attack by Ignatius Zvi Lemmi on the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, where she worked. Another girl, who also worked there, had asked her to exchange their afternoons off, and while Anne was consequently off duty her friend was blown off the roof by the explosion into the branches of a nearby tree, but almost miraculously escaped serious injury. Partly perhaps, though not wholly, as a result of this experience, Anne sometimes surprised those who had had no direct knowledge of that country by her blunt views on the rights and wrongs of the Palestine question.

Travelling by night on one occasion across Sinai with her future husband, their car broke down and Anne set off at once in near darkness to collect scrub from the desert to give enough firelight for their resourceful Arab driver to repair it. Their bodyguard and friend, a Bedouin who knew of their engagement, congratulated Lord Oxford in Arabic, saying "You couldn't do better, even if you were to choose a Bedouin wife", a compliment she greatly treasured.

She and Lord Oxford had planned to marry in Jerusalem early in 1947, but women and children were compulsorily evacuated, and their wedding took place in Brompton Oratory in August. His work as Assistant District Commissioner had brought him into the Colonial Service (later subsumed into the Foreign & Commonwealth Office) and the Oxfords were to spend the next 20 years very happily in a variety of exotic postings: first in Tripoli (1949-52), and next in Zanzibar, where the Sultan would wave graciously to the small Asquith children from his scarlet open Daimler.

Next came St Lucia (1958-61), where the extensive grounds of Government House would be tended willingly by convicts from the local prison, wielding machetes during their periods of exercise. Impressed by Lord Oxford's skill at archery, one of the West Indian guards was heard to exclaim "Lordship bloomir Robin Hood".



Lord and Lady Oxford at Mells in Somerset

Their last posting was the most distant of all to Government House in the Seychelles, which could only be reached, in those idyllic pre-tourist days, by two ships a month plying between Mombasa and Bombay. One of them, *The State of Bombay*, was often referred to as "The State of Decay".

Anne, with their children, would accompany her husband on their own sometimes perilous voyages to the remote islands of the colony, seldom visited by their predecessors. They would take with them a doctor and a priest to attend to the physical and spiritual needs of those living there. One such voyage (of 600 miles each way) took them in a small boat to the Chagos archipelago in the British Indian Ocean Territory which had been added to her husband's responsibilities.

Their infrequent home leaves did

much to enliven the family home at Mells in Somerset, and these visits were looked forward to with great excitement. Anne Oxford's interests included a love of literature, both French and English, and of music and the arts. All her five children, the fruit of an enviable and successful marriage, received their early education at her hands and she heightened their lives, and those of all her friends, with her quick mind, her infectious enthusiasm, and her sympathetic understanding of the needs of others.

JOHN JOLLIFFE

Anne Mary Celestine Palaret, born Paris 14 November 1916; married 1947 Julian, second Earl of Oxford and Asquith (two sons, three daughters); died Frome, Somerset 19 August 1998.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

EDWARD M. SPIERS

# Militant Islam in 19th-century Sudan

CONTEMPORARY SUDAN has been identified with scenes of suffering and famine, a protracted civil war, the harbouring of militant Islamic groups and the sponsorship of international terrorism. Last year the United States, alarmed by reports of repressive internal policies and destabilising activities abroad, imposed stiff economic sanctions on the Sudan. These concerns are uncannily reminiscent of the anxieties aroused by the domestic and external policies of the Mahdist regime in the Sudan over one hundred years ago.

The Mahdists, however, posed a much more overt military threat to their neighbours. Having risen in revolt in the early 1880s, the Mahdists annihilated an Egyptian army at el Obeid (November 1883), killed Major-General Gordon, the governor-general of the Sudan, in capturing Khartoum (January 1885), and effectively conquered the Sudan within about three years. In spite of the Mahdi's death in June 1885, they pursued the jihad under his successor, Khalifa Abdullahi, frequently clashing with the British regime in Ethiopia, fighting the British near Suakin, mounting an abortive invasion of Egypt in 1898, and periodically confronting the Italians in Eritrea.

Formally, Britain was concerned about the threat to Egypt but public attitudes were much more influenced by the desire to avenge Gordon, to suppress the slave trade, and to stem the spread of what Lord Salisbury would describe as the "false religion" of Islam. Such sentiments thrived on the tales of brutal repression, licentious living, and disaffection within the Sudan spread by prisoners who had escaped from Omdurman in the early 1890s.

Even so, British governments were all too aware of the risks, demands, and potential costs of invading a vast and inhospitable country. It was not until March 1896 when Italy made frantic pleas for assistance, following the rout of its army at Adowa, that Salisbury's cabinet approved a limited intervention. Thereafter it relied on the strategic foresight of Kitchener, his logistical preparations (including the laborious building of a railway across the Nubian desert in 1897), and the ability of his Anglo-Egyptian army to exploit the blunders of the Khalifa, eventually destroying his army at Omdurman on 2 September 1898.



The damaged Mahdi's tomb at Omdurman

The manner in which the campaign was reported perpetuated the popular impressions of the campaign, and extolled the martial achievements of Kitchener's army, whose successes overlapped with the celebrations for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and marked the end of Victorian imperialism.

A motley band of some 30 war artists and correspondents reported on the war. For much of the campaign they languished in camps, with information curtailed by Kitchener's secretiveness, their copy censored, and their movements restricted. Although a few were respected, many relied on sensational and imaginative writing, often based on secondhand accounts, not least the famous charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman.

They depicted the dervishes as cruel and fanatical, but also as a fearless and formidable foe; lauded Kitchener's methodical planning; and praised the courage and determination of the British officers and men. After the battle they found an appropriate symbol of Mahdism's destruction, sending home photographs of the Mahdi's tomb - the largest building in Omdurman and a place of pilgrimage - with its cupola badly damaged by artillery shells. Although the Khalifa's resistance would not be stifled finally until he was killed at the battle of Um Dibaykarat in November 1899, Britain was able to curb the threat from militant Islam by imposing a condominium on the Sudan for the next 50 years.

Edward M. Spiers is the editor of the *Sudan: the reconquest* (Frank Cass £17.50)

# Birt's revolution: snap, crackle, but will it pop?

THE INDEPENDENT  
ARCHIVE

7 SEPTEMBER 1988

*Maggie Brown assesses John Birt's progress a year into his crusade to reform the journalistic output of the BBC*

who rose to power as deputy Director-General of the BBC found little to admire in the corporation's output and far too few serious specialists on its staff. Daily news programmes and more leisurely current affairs were finally merged into one coherent operation. A cadre of youngish executives, a news and current affairs directorate, was set up to manage and monitor BBC journalists, and their output. An extra £20m for news and current affairs (to be spent over five years) was squeezed out of a contracting corporation.

The problem in assessing the state of the Birt changes up until now has been the scanty programming to show for all the missionary zeal. The *Nine O'Clock News* has found a new affection for graphs, and in recent weeks, an able Northern Ireland correspondent. *Newsnight* has a tougher edge. Each BBC news programme has its own editor, an influx of outside recruits are editing key current affairs programmes. And, from this autumn, television correspondents will be able to discuss with Tim Orchard, the recently appointed "in-take editor", where to direct a story

idea or feature from the *Nine O'Clock News* to *Panorama*. John Birt remains the key theorist, the presiding spirit of BBC news and current affairs. But, last July, he voluntarily handed all day-to-day control to his deputy the BBC news stalwart Ron Neil.

Birt's new distance from executive control of news and current affairs does not seem to signal a reversal or retreat from the values he wishes to implant of "accuracy, impartiality and fair-mindedness", for these are adhered to with equal zeal by Neil and his directorate recruits. Birt is a relentlessly determined man devoted to creating administrative systems as a bulwark against human failings. He says: "The changes in the output will take a long time to work through." The bitter opposition to Birt has abated to some extent: there is relief at the firm way in which political attacks have been handled. "There is still a lot of cynicism about, but I don't think it will stop anything. And nor should it," says one senior BBC television newsman.

One long-term test of Birtism at the BBC will be whether its output rises above and beyond decent competence. "At its best, journalism should crackle and sizzle with discovery," said John Birt in his Royal Television Society lecture "Decent Media". Ian Hargreaves picks up the theme: "We think the introduction of new people, a new way of doing things will inject that crackle. If it doesn't we have failed."

From the Media page of *The Independent*, Wednesday 7 September 1988

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

MAWBY Tracy, aged 27. Following sudden death, funeral at Falmouth Parish Church, Suffolk, Friday 11 September at 3pm. Friends welcome.

MILLER Robert Henry William (Bob), passed away suddenly, after a short illness, on Wednesday 19 August 1988. Will be sadly missed by wife Joan, son Michael and daughter Susan. Funeral service at Southend Crematorium 2pm on Tuesday 22 September. Donations to Little Haven or Fair Haven Hospitals. All enquiries to A.W. Alden, 196 High Road, South Benfleet, Essex SS16 2JH.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICES

KEATINGE: The memorial service for Sir Edgar Mayne Keatinge CBE (Miles) will be held on Saturday 19 September 1988 at St Michael and All Angels Church, Telford, Shropshire at 2.30pm and afterwards at Howard House, Telford. Donations if desired for the Telford Parochial Church Council, c/o L.N. Newman Ltd, 55 Winchester St, Salisbury SP1 1HL.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notice of funerals, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

### FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Dr A.J. Otley and Miss V.L.R.M. Groom. The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr J.A. Otley, of Pershore, Worcestershire, and the late Mrs Otley, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Mr C.R. Groom, of Willington, Derbyshire, and Mrs M.H.P. Groom, of Repton, Derbyshire.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Mr John Baxter, Head Master, Wells Cathedral School, 59; Professor Malcolm Bradbury, academic and novelist, 66; Lord Charteris of Amisfield, former Provost of Eton, 85; Mr Kevin Curran, cricketer, 39; Mr J. Paul Getty II, KBE, philanthropist, 66; Mr Peter Gill, playwright and associate director, Royal National Theatre, 59; Mr Chris Green, former chief executive, English Heritage, 55; Miss Margaret Hampshire, former principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 80; Miss Dianne Hayter, director of Corporate Affairs, Wellcome Trust, 49; Lord Jenkins of Roding, former MP, 72; Mr Elia Kazan, author and film director, 88; Sir Ian Kennedy, High Court judge, 68; Sir Douglas Lovelock, former civil servant, 75; Professor Sir Brian Pippard, Emeritus Professor of Physics at Cambridge, 78; Mr Michael Robbins, antiquarian and historian, 83; Sir Neil Shields, former chairman, Commission for New Towns, 79; Lord Stone of Blackheath, joint managing director, Marks and Spencer, 56; Mr Graham Whetton,

composer, 71; Air Marshal Sir John Whitley, 93; Mr Bruce Yardley, cricketer, 51.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Queen Elizabeth I, 1533; Stephen Hales, botanist and inventor, 1677; Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon, naturalist, 1707; François-André Danican Philidor, composer and chess champion, 1726; Thomas Coutts, banker, 1735; John William Polidori, physician and author, 1795; William Butterfield, church architect, 1814; John McDouall Stuart, explorer of Australia, 1815; Ferdinand von Hebra, dermatologist, 1816; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, statesman, 1836; William Friese-Greene, pioneer of the cinema, 1855; Anna Mary ("Grandma") Moses, primitive painter, 1860; George Herbert Hirst, cricketer, 1871; Clarence Michael James Dennis, poet and journalist ("laureate of the lark"), 1876; Dame Edith Sitwell, writer, 1887; Bruce Frederick Cummings ("W.N.P. Barbellion"), diarist and biologist, 1889; Lt-Gen Sir Brian Gwynne Horrocks, soldier and author, 1895; Sir John Anthony Quayle, actor, 1913; Group Captain Lord Cheshire, OM, VC, 1917; Peter Lawford, actor, 1923; Charles Hardin ("Buddy") Holly, rock singer, 1936.

Deaths: Ferdinand IV ("El Emplazado"), King of Castile and Leon, 1312; Frederick IV, King of Germany, 1493; Ferdinand II, King of Naples, 1498; Catherine Parr, sixth wife of King Henry VIII, 1548; Henri Desmarests, composer, 1741; Hannah More, author and evangelist, 1833; Sidney

Lanier, poet, 1881; John Greenleaf Whittier, poet and naturalist, 1892; René-François-Armand Sully Prudhomme, poet, 1907; William Holman Hunt, pre-Raphaelite painter, 1910; Gertrude Lawrence (Alexandra Dagmar Lawrence-Klason), actress, 1952; Charles Burgess Fry, cricketer, footballer and journalist, 1954; Spring Byington, film actress, 1971; Patrick Gordon Campbell, third Baron Glenavy, writer and broadcaster, 1981; Liam O'Flaherty, novelist, 1984.

On this day: the Genoese defeated the Venetians at the naval Battle of Curzola, 1298; the French were defeated by Prince Eugene at Turin, 1706; the French army under Napoleon defeated the Russians at the Battle of Borodino, 1812; the first known reference to "Uncle Sam" was in an editorial in the *Troy Post* (New York), 1813; the independence of Brazil from Portugal was declared, 1822; Grace Horsley Darling and William, her father rescued the crew of the *Forfarshire* steamship at the Farne Islands, 1838; the Peace of Peking ended the Boxer Rising in China, 1901; the British explorer Sir Francis Younghusband led an expedition to Tibet, where a treaty was signed with the Dalai Lama, 1904; the "Black Knight", a British ballistic missile, was fired from the Woomera range in Australia, 1958.

Today is the Feast Day of Saints Edmund and Tilbert, St Anastasius the Fuller, St Cloud or Clodoald, St Grimoire, St John of Nicomedia, St Regina or Raine of Alise and St Seozon.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Farnborough International Air Show, Hampshire. Prince Edward, President, Commonwealth Games Federation, visits Kuala Lumpur for the XVI Commonwealth Games.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

#### LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Polly Elkin, "Architectural drawings by Robert Adam", 2pm.

### CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev David Bartholomew, Rector, St John and Mercy (Peterborough): to be Rector, Barchinella with Newton and Enderwell with Spinton (Wiltshire). The Rev Vivian Ephraim, Priest-in-Charge, Birmingham St Edmund with Lignwood, Strumpshaw with Easingham and Buxham (Norfolk): to be also Rural Dean of Blofield (same diocese). The Rev Canon Samir Habib, Rector, Hinesville St Philip, Georgia (USUSA): to be Priest-in-Charge, Leesmore Christ Church, Switzerland (Geneva). The Rev Tim Herbert, Priest-in-Charge, Thameston, and Director of Ordinands (Canterbury): to be Principal, Carleton and Blackburn Diocesan Training Institute (Carlisle). The Rev Andrew Kemp, Assistant Chaplain, Cranleigh School, Surrey: to be Chaplain, Wells Cathedral School.

THE ATLANTIC disaster reminds us that a useful word is also lost. Jets were once "aeroplanes", a Croydon luxury. In 1920 *Blackwood's Magazine* asserted that "the perfected aeroplane is the obvious instrument to suppress war", but in 1896 *Encyclopaedia* asked "why not call it airplane?" In 1928 the

WORDS  
CHRISTOPHER  
HAWTREE  
jet, n.

BBC did so - ahead of the *US Forces Dictionary* which, in 1951, said that this had long been American usage. That same year, John

Wyndham referred confusingly to a jet aeroplane. With some new word for ungainly 747s, let us revive jet: a large jadle, to parade, to bray, to revel, even to loosen sand and to assume a pompous gait - or, of a bird, to move the tail up and down - the fate, alas, of many a jet, especially Aeroflots.



# I know my father died of drink. I watched him

Her father died in agony after years of drinking, but alcoholism was not recorded as the cause of death. Why?

By Rosie Brocklehurst

**M**y father died from chronic alcoholism but I cannot prove it. I cannot prove that in July 1982, when my father had been in intensive care for three days and the plug was pulled on his life, alcohol was the cause of his death. I cannot prove it because nowhere on his death certificate is alcohol even mentioned.

My father's death is not included in the statistics of alcohol-related deaths in England and Wales for 1982. In that year, the official number of alcohol-related deaths in England and Wales was put at the very low figure of 2,624. Those statistics are not going to put alcoholism very high up on anybody's agenda, or shock the nation for that matter, but those statistics are wrong.

Alcohol is no respecter of persons, of internal organs or of bodily functions. But although research has improved since 1982, and official statistics have risen, there still exists a web of denial, ignorance and confusion in assessing the true picture of alcoholism, illness and mortality. Difficulties in collection of data, collusion between families, individuals and the medical profession which incorporates the stigma still associated with the word "alcoholic" are factors in masking the problem's real nature. If someone dies from alcohol-related causes, it is unlikely to appear on the death certificate.

The debate within the medical profession – and within society as a whole – about the effects of alcohol abuse is based on poor understanding fuelled by inadequate research; an area as murky as the dregs in the bottom of a bottle of inferior plonk.

How do I know what killed my father? Because I was there. I was there for years. I brought him his last bottle of strong liquor. He was not eating then. He could not. He was in terrible physical and mental pain. I witnessed his physical and mental decline over a period of years as he drank his way through a minimum of two bottles of Scotch a day. He never mentioned suicide, but his life was ebbing away pitifully each day. It was not just the physical disintegration but also the mental degeneration that was so horrific. His spirit was atrophying.

In the two years before his death, my father's body was bloated, and his skin a greyish colour. His face was jowly and ill-kempt. His eyes were hunched and yellow. He could not walk without extreme pain in his legs. He smoked, but this was not all to do with smoking. It is known that



William, on the far right, succumbed to alcoholism as a middle-aged husband and father living in the family home

chronic alcoholism causes polyneuropathy – tender calf muscles, discomfort in walking, numbness, weak legs, tingling in feet and hands and can lead to paralysis of the legs.

His name was William, and he had once, some 30 years before, been a fit and wiry fitness instructor in the RAF. At the age of 45 he was made redundant, and dealt with his anxiety and disappointment in life with drink. He moved the family to a house next door to a pub and when he was not drinking there, he was brewing up pear wine and consuming it before it had fermented. It was the kind of stuff you used to get under the counter in the Gorbals. Moonshine, 100 per cent proof that could also be used as paint stripper.

The violent mood swings, such a consistent pattern in the early years of his drinking, in the later stages, changed to an all-enveloping depression. As his body and his mind weakened he withdrew into a space few could penetrate. He spent most of his last days in a council bungalow, staring into the middle distance. His memory came and went. He began to believe that he had fought in the Second World War, when in fact he had not been old enough to do so. This type of confabulation is documented. Extreme cases are known as "Korsakoff's Psychosis".

On a hot July day in 1982, my father was found by a friend of the family who was passing by his home. He was sitting naked and shivering on a kitchen chair. He had removed all his clothes for fear, like every sheet and towel in the house was covered in a foul bloody liquid, which he was passing from his howl and mouth. The family friend recalled the look of abject fear on my father's eyes as the ambulance took him to hospital.

That was the last time anyone saw him conscious. Soon after arrival at the hospital his oesophagus ruptured and his stomach erupted.

His brain was monitored in intensive care. It had been severely damaged. He was 56 years old when he died.

In the Liver Unit of King's College Hospital, it is the nurses who witness most of the agonising death throes of the alcoholic patients; the foaming at the mouth in alcohol-induced epileptic fits, the swelling of the brain from inflammation. If the patient survives then he or she may become one of those placed in a psychiatric



In his twenties, William was an RAF fitness instructor

hospital, the so-called "wet brains" who do not know who they are or where they have come from, and whose brain damage is irreversible. For those with chronic liver disease who are in physical agony, a painkiller may not always be administered because death may be caused by the drug itself.

All death and its details make grim conversation but there is a particular aura of shame and taboo which surrounds the subject of alcoholic death. Moreover, the medical terminology used to describe physical states leading to death shrouds the subject further with clinical objectivity, and removes the emotional shock from a general public who might wish to avoid hearing about the gruesome details. The horrific nature of the alcoholic death – from cerebral atrophy or liver disease for

example – is confirmed by Dr Sarah Jarvis of Alcohol Concern's medical committee. "It is, without doubt, one of the most unpleasant deaths imaginable," she says. "Of course it is the hardened alcoholic who ends up in hospital – the hopeless case – and I think this gives doctors a very distorted view of the whole subject of alcoholism in our society."

But why is it the case that accurate statistics are so hard to come by? Dr Peter Anderson of the World Health Organisation says: "There is reluctance on the part of the medical profession to put alcoholism down as a cause. This is perhaps partly to do with a certain ambivalence in the profession, because of the way alcohol is used by the profession itself. There is also the added desire to protect the family afterwards from the associated social stigma."

Dr Jarvis agrees and says that collusion has meant it is hard to come up with accurate statistics. Researchers have had to develop systems of analysis of an epidemiological nature, by looking at the relationship between drink and ill health or accidents related to alcohol consumption.

A lot of death certificates are written out in the primary health care setting where the doctor will have known the family. The truth might strain the doctor-patient relationship. There may also be financial reasons. Lucy, is an example of what often happens. Her husband died in a London hospital at the age of 29. He had fought a battle with drink for nine years.

Lucy accepted he was dying of alcoholism, but it did not appear as the cause of death. If it had, it may have jeopardised the life insurance which enabled her to pick up the pieces of her shattered life after his death.

Statistics do matter. 100,000 a year is the figure for smoking-related deaths. But Drs Jarvis and Anderson agree it is easier to assess

smoking-related illness, and even with changes in attitudes, there is not the same social stigma associated with smoking oneself to death. Part of the problem is recognising early signs in the pathology of the patient. Many illnesses caused by alcohol could have been caused by something else.

Despite the commonly held belief that the consequences of alcohol misuse are well understood, expert evidence suggests this is not true. Figures vary between 4,000 and 40,000 deaths per annum in England and Wales. Dr Anderson quotes a figure of 28,000 deaths (Lord President's Report, Action on Alcohol Misuse, 1991).

It is these statistics, of course, which when waved in front of Government Health Departments influence the importance assigned to any particular health problems.

Since the University of York's Centre for Health Economics report in May 1992, which put the annual alcohol-related mortality rate at between "8,700 and 33,000", there has been no change in the statistical data. But more recently the Government has proposed, in its *Healthier Nation* White Paper, a strategy designed to tackle the whole issue. Alcohol Concern is in the process of developing a body of work which will help to inform that strategy. Perhaps the key statistics here are financial. Alcohol misuse costs British industry an estimated £20n per annum; and alcohol-related crime costs an estimated £50m a year.

It is to be hoped that financial considerations will influence strategy in such a way that death and alcohol become a more transparent subject. We must overcome our squeamishness and shame. It is the tragic human consequences of such illness and death which needs to be revealed if more lives are not to be wasted.

IN THE STICKS  
STEVIE MORGAN

## Luck and the lost lizard

**YOU KNOW** those September storms you get some years when the clouds erect a modesty board between you and the sunshine, and you think "Oh no, that'll be the summer going then." I got the same feeling about Offa's Truck smacking our car. "Oh no, that'll be the good luck going then." I felt a chill, the sort of draught you get from guardian angel wings when they nip off to the beach for a couple of millennia of celestial surfing. And for a few days it looked like I was right: here came the first little ripples of an advancing weather front of Bad Luck; a season of lost keys, exploding boilers and vengeful ex-husbands.

It started with Buster's geckos, Carol and Boborski – pebble-patterned lizards about the size of a padded dessert spoon. Normally, they are slaves to habit, and visit the features of their little universe – rock, bowl, log – in a sequence as strict as the beads on a rosary. Their tank world is as sufficient for them as a flat planet to a medieval priest. They are not the natural Magellans of this world. Until last Tuesday when Carol hit some sort of reptilian mid-life crisis ("Why wasn't I a crocodile?" "Does my life have a meaning without eggs?"), and got out in to the big wide world of Bedroom and Upstairs. Boborski was distraught. He did the rosary – rock, bowl, log, rock, bowl, log, rock, bowl, log – until he was so tired he just lay on the bottom of the tank like a dead leaf. Buster was in an even worse state, as Celtic Melancholics are no good in a crisis and within 20 minutes of Carol's disappearance he was collapsed on his bed.

"Nothing ever goes right. My whole life is going to be like this!" Yeah, that's right: never mind marriage, jobs and children, it'll just be one long round of lost reptiles. While he wailed, Doug, Bunny and I looked under behind and in everything. We could have been Special Branch looking for a murder weapon. But Carol had clearly found no dragons at the edge of the carpet and gone to find the North West Passage.

Then, while Buster and Boborski were still in a state of shock, Roz's terrier Lil went missing. Usually, Lil limits herself to days out at the Girl Guide Camp acting like a dog in high heels and getting paid in bacon rinds. But this was serious. Lil had gone on a major fact-finding mission down a badger sett up the road, and badgers don't care to be interviewed by terriers. They take it rather like a Brooklyn Mafia would take a social call from an FBI stooge.

By the time Roz rang, Lil

had been gone for two days, and we suspected the badger equivalent of a concrete overcoat in the East River.

We all took it in turns to call down the holes for her and even took Dog up there to sniff her out – as Dog and Lil are long term lesbian lovers. We spent a rather embarrassing morning yelling "Lil-Lil" into every hedgerow between here and Scrungeton, but she didn't turn up.

And then, just when I was thinking that Lil's loss was the third bad thing and we might now be safe, Bob and Dolly called to discuss Doug buying the field. Buster's melancholic pessimism had got to Doug.

"Either they want another 20 grand, or they've got planning permission to build a nuclear reprocessing plant on it," he said, predicting the coup de grace to his plans for a poly tunnel empire. We tensed, ready for a fight, crashed cars, escaped reptiles and lost dogs. Hah! We were hardened; we could talk tough.

We didn't need to. Bob didn't yell once, or tell us anything about mole-killing. He let Dolly do the talking. In 20 minutes we had agreed the price, the fencing and the access. Bob's only contribution was to offer to bulldoze us a new gate. Shocked, we toasted the deal in all we had available – Russian brandy (which doubles as paint stripper) and pink grapefruit squash.

After they'd gone, we sat in the kitchen, stunned, poly tunnel dreams redefining above our heads like balloons. The phone rang. It was Roz. "She's back. I went up to the sett with a chocolate digestive and she crawled out. It's a case of Border's Bottom Bitten By Badger. She'll live."

So maybe the surf at the eternal beach wasn't up, and the angel was returning with a dry board, and time to kill.

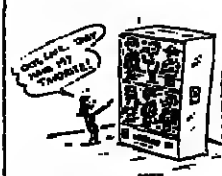
We went to bed after we finished the pink squash and the brandy. Flicking on the bathroom light, who should I see on a voyage across the bathroom floor but Carol. With my consciousness nicely uncoupled by the alcohol, I did just the right thing. In one movement, my T-shirt was off and wrapped round Carol's protesting little body. All my attempts to impress Doug, from shaving my legs to answering questions on *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*, were as nothing to the effect that gecko catching had. "Wow," he said, putting his arm around my waist. "That was amazing."

Funnily enough, Carol's new, adventurous image seems to have done wonders for her sex life. I noticed three eggs buried in the tank this morning.

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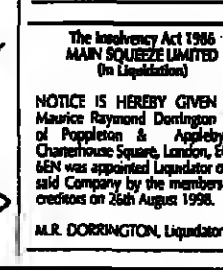


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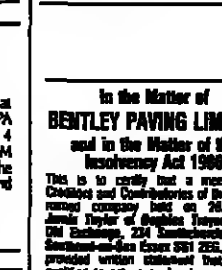


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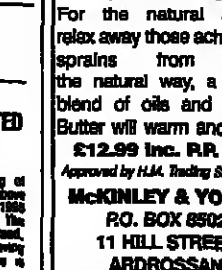


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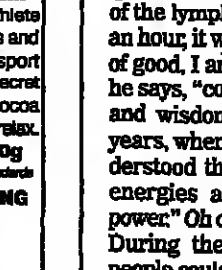


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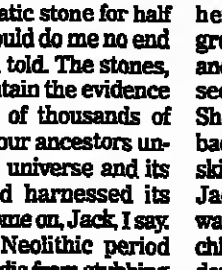


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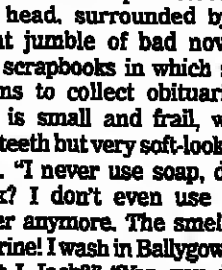


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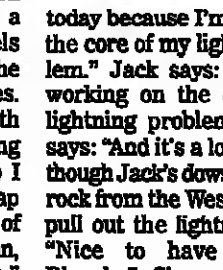


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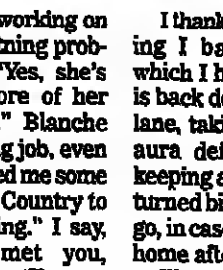


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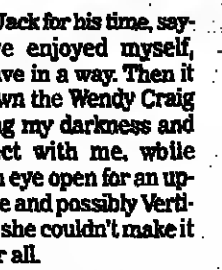


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Shoppers follow Jack around Waitrose, picking up tips

today because I'm working on the core of my lightning problem." Jack says: "Yes, she's working on the core of her lightning problem." Blanche says: "And it's a long job, even though Jack's dowsed me some rock from the West Country to pull out the lightning." I say, "Nice to have met you, Blanche". She says, "Do you want to have a look at some of my obituaries?" I say I really must go. "It's a long job," sighs Jack, as we retreat.

I thank Jack for his time, saying I have enjoyed myself, which I have in a way. Then it is back down the Wendy Craig lane, taking my darkness and aura defect with me, while keeping an eye open for an up-turned bike and possibly Vertigo, in case she couldn't make it home after all.

Then, on the train back to London, I do a bit of natural dowsing. It's easy. All you have to do is tip your head back and go "zzzzzzzz".



# I'm her mother, not her friend

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

EDWINA CURRIE RECALLS HER REACTION WHEN DAUGHTER DEBBIE, THEN AGED 15, REVEALED SHE HAD LOST HER VIRGINITY

Writer and broadcaster Edwinna Currie was born in Liverpool in 1946. Her daughter Debbie, 23, is a television presenter for LIVE TV and lives in London. While in their local supermarket Debbie announced to her mother that she had recently lost her virginity. According to Edwinna, they have never visited a supermarket together since.

### Edwinna

It was Sainsbury's in Kingsway, Derby, and Debbie must have been about 17 or 18 years old - she was still at school. I cannot remember why we were talking about sex and life, except that you do not get much opportunity to chat with your teenage daughter.

I can remember discussing which kind of fish and soup to buy. We were picking things off shelves and also looking at make-up - both my daughters spend a great deal more on make-up and creams than I have ever done. When she told me, I think I said something rather bland like "I hope you enjoyed it". I was not too impressed it had happened when she was 15 years old. I was afraid she was a bit young and might have been taken advantage of by someone. But by then she was substantially taller than me and towering over me so I felt in no position to remonstrate.

I do not think the topic would have come up if Debbie had not wanted it to. I think she wanted to talk about it. Picking a time was probably difficult because I was so busy. I suspect she was also trying to shock me a bit and trying to tell me she was not a little girl, which certainly got the message home. It also meant that I could not question her in too much detail as we were surrounded by other people.

I was determined not to be censorious. I did not drop the eggs or walk off in a huff. I felt I was fairly adult in dealing with it. I was a bit gobsmacked, I have to admit, especially at the way she had chosen her moment. It is not quite what you expect when you draw up your shopping list, is it?

I was also astonished that, for her, it was a fairly natural subject for discussion - it was not the sort of thing you discussed in my day. I appreciate, on the other hand, that she was able to be so open with me. It showed she trusted me. I suspect she was trying to test my values: was I curious, was I despairing, did I want to know more? I also think she was quite proud of it - she was boasting a little. I felt it was important not to make it a big issue.

But when Debbie began to talk more intimately about the experience I stopped her right away. I was curious because she clearly did not regard me as most people regard their parents, which was both warning and scary. It was almost

frightening that she would treat me as her friend. I am not a friend, I am a mother. Mates go along with things, join in conspiratorially, explore things together. I am not going along with that, especially since the darker corner of modern life is not to my taste.

I cannot remember Deborah confiding in me before the episode in Sainsbury's, although after that she somehow started to treat me as a pal. What matters most to me is how things feel for her. I will listen to that side of it and perhaps ask questions when appropriate.

Whenever my daughters phone up and say "I'm in trouble", my first question is "Are you pregnant?" and they fall about laughing and say "Nothing like that".

One thing I did after Deborah confided in me was consciously set out more time to be with my daughters and to see them separately - I felt Debbie wanted time aside to be treated as an adult. I also had to accept that she had grown up and was old enough to take her own decisions.

### Debbie

The deed happened during my final term when I was about 15 or 16 years old. It did not come out of the blue when I was telling mum. I think she had been asking how my weekend had gone. I had met a boy at a summer party. We had gone to another boy's house and watched videos and drunk too much and the conversation came up via that. I think I said: "And by the way, something quite exciting happened." I did not mind telling her - because it is her. Both my parents are very cool and very open. They are both of the opinion that too little knowledge is a very dangerous thing and that if you have got all the information, your mistakes will not be that huge.

Telling her like that was a bigger deal to everyone else than it was to me. Losing my virginity was quite exciting and it was something I wanted to share with her. When I told her, she went quiet for a bit and then said: "Did you enjoy it?"

Losing my virginity was not a big deal either. I do not remember seeing it as anything other than a conversation starter, like, "Actually something exciting happened to me". At that age, we still wanted to get it over and done by the age of consent. I do not think that worried her - the age of consent is neither here nor there. It is whether you feel ready at the time.

She had always said: "Do what you want, but use a condom." As long as she felt we were doing it safely, she would never preach.

So many of my friends cannot talk to their parents about sex - they still see their parents as "adults". When it comes to chatting to my mum I have never felt like that. She does



Debbie Currie: 'I still talk to Mum quite freely about my relationships with guys. Basically, we are two single girls living in London.'

Neville Elder

not open up herself, but she is a great listener.

Even at that age, when everything was very up and down and adults were viewed as the enemy a lot of the time, I saw both my parents as my best friends. It was almost easier to share things with Mum than it was with friends because there was less prodding and competition. And being in the pub-

lic eye means that I cannot always trust everyone around me. Mum also knows that she can confide in me for the same reason. I think there is a deep bond of trust between us. Looking back, at the point I told her it was only a couple of years before she left government and we did not see anything of her. She spent so much time down in London, although I knew if I was

in real trouble, she would be there for me. But on a day-to-day basis, it was very difficult to keep up with her, so it was a period of my life when I wasn't seeing too much of her and discussing things.

I still talk to Mum quite freely about my relationships with guys. There is a generation gap and she does see things differently. She is ever so slightly shocked by what

we get up to and gives advice from a totally different perspective - and she will stop me if the details are too gory.

Sometimes she mourns the fact that I have never found a boyfriend with a degree and concentrate on looks too much. When she was at university that was a big deal, whereas I can see someone as bright whether or not they have got

a degree. But mum thinks I could do better than I have so far. We do have different ideas, which we talk about, especially since she has separated from Dad.

Basically, we are two single girls living in London, so discussing things with someone my age gives her another perspective - it helps both of us to see things differently. INTERVIEWS BY EMMA COOK

**W**hy is childcare such a major problem in this country? Everyone recognises that it is of central importance, yet Britain has the lowest levels of publicly funded childcare in the EU and there are no tax breaks for working women. Though one in two mothers with small children goes out to work, government-funded daycare facilities are available for less than one in every 100 under fives. Despite initiatives to create financial incentives for employers to set up sponsored workplace nurseries, there are still only 600 in the UK.

The Government plans to introduce a childcare benefit in October 1999 but it will only assist families that earn £90 a week or less, and the cost of a registered childminder in London is about £100 per week.

**How to find someone**  
■ Call your local authority for a list of registered childminders, nurseries and playgroups and then ask your local social worker which ones she can recommend.  
■ If you are looking for an au pair go through a registered agency which will change the au pair if you have a problem within the first four weeks. This costs about £150. Many au pairs are placed with a family before they actually arrive in Britain. If you can interview an au pair who is already in the country, it

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usually means that they are unhappy with their current position and that can mean that either they, or their previous employer, were a problem. Make sure to check their most recent British references.  
■ If you are looking for a nanny, you can use a recommended agency but this can cost up to £500. Alternatively you can place an advert in The Lady, the TWT Australian Times, or the The Register.  
■ Look on the the

noticeboard or place ads in local playgroups or libraries.  
**Childminders**  
A childminder provides daycare in her own home for young children. Childminders must be registered with the local authority, who carry out an annual inspection. You do not need any formal training to register as a childminder. A full-time childminder costs about £100 per week and can only look after three children under the age of five at once.

**Nannies**  
A nanny does not have to have any qualifications and nannies do not have to register with the local authority. Some nannies will have a Cache diploma in nursery nursing (NNEB) but the right kind of experience with small children is as valuable. A live-in nanny earns about £200 per week and a live-out nanny will cost about £250.

**Au pairs/mothers' helps**  
Au pairs should not be expected to take care of very small children by themselves. They are only legally allowed to work for 25 hours a week, but many are exploited and work much longer hours. Mothers' helps work much longer hours, are cheaper than nannies (about £90 per week) and, as the term implies, the mother should be in the home.

**Nurseries**  
In private nurseries, babies are looked after by trained nursery nurses. A full-time nursery place costs £150, including nappies and food.

**Useful numbers**  
The National Children's Bureau, 0171-843 6307; Working for Childcare, 0171-700 0281; The National Childminding Association, 0181-464 6164; Daycare Trust Childcare Hotline, 0171-495 5617

'Women Unlimited - The Directory for Life' is published by Penguin, £9.99

## Lice need understanding

To control the parasites, we must get to know them. By Maurice Melzak

**HEAD LICE** have been with us for thousands of years. Expressions such as feeling lousy, nitwit and nit-picking refer to this long association. But today Britain is facing an epidemic of head lice - and children are bearing the brunt of the explosion.

Dr Tony Downs, a Bristol-based dermatologist, has found schools where nearly half the children have lice. Parents are spending millions on lotions which often do not work. The Government has no clear strategy and health authorities offer conflicting advice: for poorly funded and busy health professionals, lice, not being life-threatening, are a low priority. This is good news for the louse.

Head lice are mistakenly associated with poverty and dirt, so some people feel shamed by infestation. However, hair type or cleanliness do not seem to be factors; the louse is an equal-opportunity parasite and finds the head of children from the wealthiest families as tasty as blood from those from the poorest.

In making my documentary on lice, I was surprised not only by how widespread lice were - hundreds of thousands of children must be affected - but also by how little information there is. Scientists are not even certain how they infect us.

The lack of research has created a vacuum which can be



filled with all sorts of myths. Most parents believe children get head lice at school, though even this view is contested by at least one expert. As a young researcher, Dr John Maunier, a medical entomologist based in Cambridge, was told to work on lice as a punishment after upsetting a professor. But he found he like lice and has worked with them ever since. Dr Maunier believes they are not caught at school but come from "asymptomatic" adults. These are adults who are not even aware they have lice, yet will pass them to anyone who gets close enough.

One of the biggest worries about lice concerns chemicals in treatment lotions. Most experts believe these chemicals are safe so long as they are not

used more than a few times a year; but doctors should be consulted before pregnant women and babies use them.

A major problem is that lice are becoming resistant to chemicals, leading to overuse of the treatments. When a lotion fails, one might, quite reasonably, try another product. However, many chemicals may have different names and make-up, but they are based on the same active ingredient. For example, Prioderm, Suleo M and Derbac M all contain the organo-phosphate malathion. If the louse is resistant to one, it is likely it will be resistant to the others.

Even if a lotion does kill adult lice, any eggs they have laid may live on to begin a new cycle. So one needs to do a second treatment about 10 days

after the first to kill the lice that hatch before they too lay eggs. One alternative to using chemicals is the wet-combing method, sometimes called "bug busting". It involves physically removing the lice from hair that has been soaked in conditioner. This scheme is based on understanding the life cycle of the head louse. If the first combing of the wet hair is done thoroughly, it will remove the adult lice but not the eggs, which are stuck fast to the hair. A strict regime of combing-out, every three or four days for two weeks, should remove the lice that hatch before they manage to reproduce.

There are also homeopathic remedies, such as tea tree oil. In the US, olive oil is said to suffocate lice by blocking their breathing holes. Some people have found hair gel discourages the beasts, but there is really no quick fix. It seems that the best thing to do is to check a child's hair at least once a week by combing with the fine-tooth head-lice comb.

If you find lice, try a little detective work to find out where they came from - and be responsible: tell friends and relatives. If everyone did, it would help stop lice spreading.

'Facts of Lice', produced and directed by Maurice Melzak, is on Carlton tomorrow at 7.30pm



# Helping to mend broken China

Madame Mao would not approve of a show uniting artists from both sides of the cultural revolution. By Mark Pappenheim

In communist China, the idea of "doing things by the book" once meant only one thing: the Little Red Book, otherwise known as *The Thoughts of Chairman Mao*. "Out with the old, in with the new" was another innocuous Western cliché that would have taken on sinister overtones at the time of the so-called Cultural Revolution, those three disastrous years during which the red-bound thoughts of the Chairman were so destructively realised in the blood-stained actions of his wife, Chiang Ch'ing. Out went the "Four Olds" – old ideas, old culture, old customs, old habits – and in marched the Red Guard and the fearsome Gang of Four.

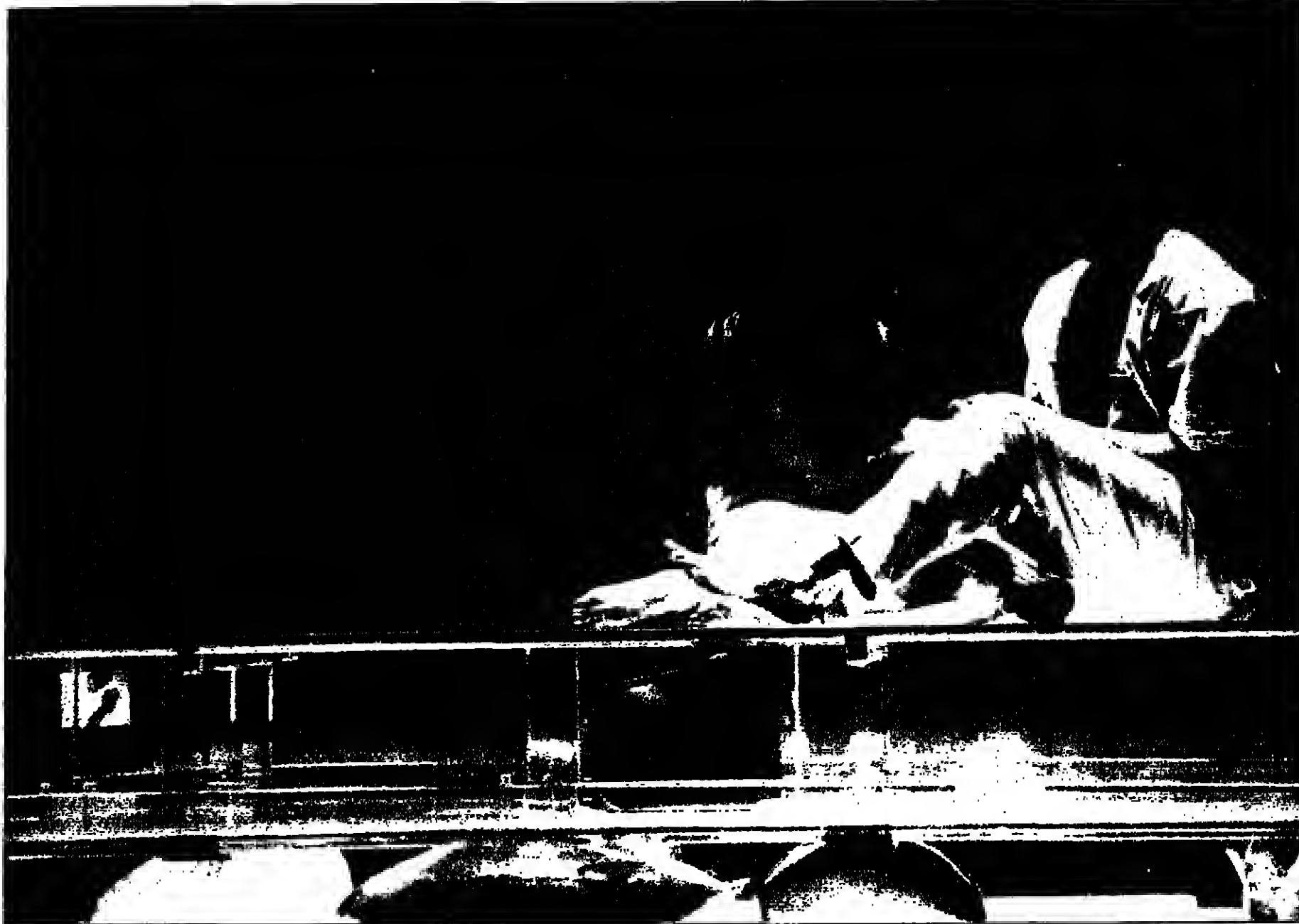
A former Shanghai actress (under the stage name Lan Ping), Mme Mao made the "reform" of the Peking Opera her pet project: in place of the old "bourgeois" historical dramas and romances, Chiang Ch'ing herself devised five new revolutionary ballets, the most famous of which, *The Red Detachment of Women*, featured an all-singing, all-dancing troop of the Red Women's Militia rescuing a poor peasant girl from rape and torture at the hands of a sadistic landowner on a torrid tropical island.

If that scenario sounds at all familiar to anyone who has been following the Barbican's cornucopian "Inventing America" season, it may be because the composer, John Adams, and the director, Peter Sellars, incorporated their own reworking of *The Red Detachment of Women* into the central act of their now-historic headline-based opera, *Nixon in China*, the belated London premiere of which (11 years after the rest of the world got to see it) launched the Barbican Centre's year-long season in January.

Sadly, that performance was only a concert version, so Londoners still haven't seen the trend-setting staging that first declared Sellars as one of the most exciting, thought-provoking and emotionally direct (if predictably controversial) directors of his generation.

And now, confession time. "I took the whole thing right out of a textbook," Sellars admits. "It's called *Secrets of the Chinese Drama*. It's by Celia R. Zung. It was published in Shanghai in 1932. I found it in a rare-book store, and it was my Bible for about 10 years." So that's the book he did it by.

"I would take all kinds of things out of it," Sellars continues. "With *Nixon in China*, in particular, I followed the directions as meticulously as possible. I staged the whole thing as a giant Chinese opera. For the Mao and Nixon scene, for example, I simply used the classical Shanghai *kunqu* [Shanghai



Lauren Tom and Joel de la Fuente in 'Peony Pavilion'

Kevin Higa

operational approach to when two leaders meet. And, of course, what's great is that, because people knew those images from television, nobody guessed that I was actually taking it straight from a Chinese Opera textbook."

It's not as simple as that, of course, as the infectious Sellars laugh betrays. But the director's "confession" does at least serve to convey something of the sense of life turning full circle and old debts being repaid that informs his latest project, *The Peony Pavilion*, arriving at the Barbican for a 10-day run on Thursday.

The story of Du Linlang (a girl raised from the grave by a lover she has only ever met (and slept with) in her dreams), *The Peony Pavilion*

is the acknowledged erotic masterpiece of the *kunqu* tradition and a classic feminist text. Written exactly 400 years ago, by one Tang Xianzu, it's just the kind of work that Mme Mao wanted swept from the Chinese stage. Coincidentally, it's also the first piece of Chinese theatre Peter Sellars saw when he visited Shanghai as a 24-year-old student in the early 1980s, "though, of course, I had no idea what I was seeing. I was just bumming around Shanghai looking for a theatre, walked into one, and this is what they were doing."

The irony is that Sellars was more interested in the Revolutionary ballets that Mme Mao had devised than in the *kunqu* operas they were designed to displace. Confession time again: "When I

first graduated from university," admits a shame-faced Sellars, "I actually tried to stage one of the Revolutionary ballets in New York. And people were outraged. 'Don't you know that lives were lost over this?' they said to me. 'How can you put this on?' So I didn't. I cancelled it."

Or postponed it, rather. For two years later it materialised within *Nixon in China*, "where we did our own version of *The Red Detachment of Women*, with, you know, the women all entering on pointe shoes, carrying rifles."

And here's a further rich comic irony of the kind that only a Cultural Revolution could throw up. For Sellars discovered, to his amazement, that the instigator of the Peony Pavilion project, Mme Hua

Wenyi (the former director of the Shanghai Opera Company, a renowned Du Linlang in her own right, and the woman who, eight years ago, challenged Sellars to find a way of rescuing the *kunqu* tradition from obscurity) was one of the original rifle-carrying women revolutionaries in Mme Mao's pointe-stepping *Red Detachment*.

"It's one of Hua Wenyi's greatest roles," Sellars laughs, relishing history's little joke, "and she loves it! She loves all those revolutionary ballets! Because that's what she performed. It was out of the question to perform *Peony Pavilion*."

That Mme Hua Wenyi is now once again starring in the classic drama is due not only to Sellars but to the third collaborator in the project,

the Human-born, New York-based composer, Tan Dun. Only last month, the Proms presented Tan's 1997 symphony for the Hong Kong hand-over, *Heaven Earth Mankind*, in which the composer resurrects the long-buried sounds of a 65-strong peal of 2,400-year-old bronze ritual bells, rediscovered in a Zhou Dynasty warrior's tomb in Hubei.

In Part 1 of *Peony Pavilion* (the story of Du Linlang's dream courtship and death), Tan has performed no less remarkable an archaeological feat, brilliantly recreating the imagined sound of an authentic Sung Dynasty troupe through virtuosic use of the human voice and simple lute, flute and percussion accompaniments. Sellars, meanwhile, initiates the first stage

of the evening's East-West dialogue by counterpointing the stylised artificiality of his two *kunqu* artists, Mme Hua and her colleague Shi Jiehua, with the naturalism of a matching pair of American actors performing the scenes in English.

Part 2, however, is something else – a full-frontal operatic assault in which Tan responds to the magical rituals and amorous couplings of Du's resurrection by unleashing a wild panoply of modern electronic effects and enhancements, samplers and synthesizers, while also having the benefit of a pair of real Chinese opera singers (including Ying Huang, star of last year's *Madame Butterfly* film) to set beside the Chinese Opera singers and Western thespians.

To describe Tan's score (with its mixture of udu drums and rock drum-kit; Tibetan chant and Monteverdian melisma; Puccini-esque bel canto that suddenly soars into ecstatic oriental glissandi; strange atavistic howlings (the composer himself on tape) and ghostly Gregorian choirs) can make it all sound dangerously like the ersatz kleptomaniac kitsch of Karl (Adiemus) Jenkins. But, as Sellars rightly insists, the difference is that, for Tan, it's not "quotation" – not just the musical equivalent of the supermarket trolley dash – but lived experience.

It was Tan's first hearing of Beethoven, as a 19-year-old student in Peking, that made him decide to become a composer. At the same time, to his generation of young Chinese, rock music came to represent all the hopes that were finally to be dashed in Tiananmen Square. And, long before that, it was thanks to the Cultural Revolution, while Mme Hua was high-stepping with her rifle, that Tan's parents were sent back to the rice fields and he himself was entrusted to the care of a peasant grandmother, who duly taught him how to play the old *erhu* fiddle and initiated him into ancient village rites.

On the surface, *Peony Pavilion* must be Peter Sellars' least political work to date – a simple story of two people in love, a masterpiece in contrasting acting styles, a celebration of the return of melody to modern classical music. But what, ironically, could be more "political", in anyone's book than this coming together of Mme Hua and Tan Dun, two generations of Chinese artists – the one establishment, the other anti-establishment – who simply would never have met each other in Chinese soil.

*Peony Pavilion*: 6.30pm on 10-12, 14-16, 18-19 September and 3pm Sunday 20 September, at the Barbican Theatre, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 8391).

## It's raining on Mike's parade

THE BRITISH have a great propensity to enjoy themselves whatever the weather. Staging the world premiere of *Tubular Bells 3* in Horse Guards Parade in central London was asking too much of the gods and, sure enough, it bucketed down on the 7,000 spectators. Surely not what Mike Oldfield had hoped for to launch his new opus, which sees the progressive rock maestro go back once more to the sweeping grandeur and pomp of *Tubular Bells* (the second instalment was at Edinburgh Castle in 1982).

The record that launched the Virgin label 25 years and 18 million copies ago has gone from hippie-must-listen to coffee-table status, and its minimalist, Erik Satie-like motifs still send a shiver down the spine of

### POP

MIKE OLDFIELD  
TUBULAR BELLS 3  
HORSE GUARDS PARADE  
LONDON

Exorcist aficionados, when they aren't cropping up on curious dance mixes.

Perhaps prompted by Rob Dickins, the head honcho of his label WEA, who engineered a makeover for Rod Stewart, Oldfield, the godfather of the ambient and new age movement, has upped sticks and gone to Ibiza to absorb some of the techno and hedonistic aspects of the club scene there. Rather than looking up Kevin Ayers, the quirky British singer-songwriter – now a Majorca resident – with whom he first secured

gainful employment as a teenager, Mike has ended up following the trance-dance route his old cohort Steve Hillage started exploring at the beginning of the Nineties. A rave, Balearic Tubular Bells, then? Not quite, but there are some dance rhythms and loops behind the opening and closing sections of the new work, which followed a shortened reprise of the original.

Tinkle tinkle went the famous piano and xylophone phrase, and the event took on messianic proportions as blankets of rain fell in front of the stage. Fittingly enough, *Tubular Bells 3*'s central song and forthcoming single is called "Man In The Rain", and the thunderous effects of the intro detracted from its obvious sim-

ilarity to the 1983 hit "Moonlight Shadow".

Backed by a 10-piece ensemble, including three percussionists (such as the in-demand Jody Linscott) and three vocalists, the bleached-blond, tanned, healthy-looking Oldfield dived away and bent the notes like a virtuoso, soothing the corporate audience. When the trademark bells came, bang on 10pm, they provided a giant emotional release for the soaked spectators. However, it wasn't quite up to the regal setting of central London. Mike, next time, please, hold the waterworks and make it Notre-Dame de Paris in July!

A version of this review appeared in some editions of *Saturday's paper*.  
PIERRE PERRONE

## Fatally flawed gadgetry

### ART

SUSPECT DEVICES  
LUX CENTRE, LONDON

SCIENTISTS ARGUE that within 10 years we'll see computers of superhuman intelligence. Pessimists say we will be lucky if they keep us as pets. Susan Collins, head of electronic media at the Slade, sees things differently. In *Suspect Devices*, a minimalist exhibition of projected images, the robot she presents is a clockwork cockroach under a dislodged floor tile. The cockroach twitches on its back, emitting a stuttering hum. It is pathetically primitive.

By critiquing the myth of smart technology, Collins calls into question the practicality of our everyday machines, invoking CDs that judderingly stick; computers that bomb; paranoid car alarms.

Humour infuses the best of Collins' work. She once broad-

gropes your body. Only an observer can – a voyeur's dream.

Likewise the animated creatures writhing rhythmically in a suitcase look designed to please a cold, lascivious eye. As the jaws of the case uncanonically open, you blink and can't distinguish what is what. Then the two participants jump apart, revealing themselves as a pair of toy dogs. They grunt and sniff each other.

What do you make of the Richmond landscape projected upside-down by a camera obscure? Initially nothing. But if you linger you glimpse a sprinting yet that vanishes abruptly, and the scene returns to its dreamy calm shared by another item: a field of sheep trapped in a filing cabinet. It's a comment on the notion of the

paperless society. When that day dawns, asks Collins, what will we do with our office furniture? The cabinet functions absurdly as a conservation site for our natural heritage.

The one gadget that appears to have a practical purpose is the security camera. But no, according to the catalogue, it's merely to emphasise an interior that is not domestic but official and desolate – a lost property bureau perhaps.

Such prompts are valuable. Unless you look closely at *Suspect Devices* you miss the magic of this huzzing menagerie.

At the Lea Gallery, The Lux Centre, Hoxton Square, London N1 until 3 October (0171-638 0201). Admission free.  
DAVID WILSON

## The perfect setting for a British success story

This year at the Locarno film festival in Italy, short films from the UK get the full monty. By Laurence Green

THE LOCARNO international film festival resumed its affair with British cinema this year – it was here that Britain's most commercially successful film, *The Full Monty*, received its European premiere. Last month the spotlight once again fell on British efforts and, in particular, the short film.

Short film-making with a distinctive regional flavour seems to be undergoing something of a renaissance in the UK and shorts from Scotland and England have won the prestigious short film prize at Cannes over the last few years.

Locarno itself, nestling on the shores of Lake Maggiore, provides a splendid setting. Its annual film shindig, now celebrating its 51st birthday, has always been in danger

of being overshadowed by its glitzy Italian relation, the Venice Film Festival (held this month), but it has flourished since its relatively modest beginnings.

By the end of the 1980s, the open-air cinema in the Piazza Grande regularly pulled in audiences of 10,000 and last year 170,000 turned up to catch Locarno's mix of the latest mainstream Hollywood films and low-budget Indies. It nevertheless remains one of the less unwieldy international film festivals.

As a student, *Full Monty*'s director, Peter Cattaneo, premiered a short here which eventually went on to receive an Academy Award, and this year organisers made a special feature of the latest crop of British shorts. Their instinct proved right



Mike Leigh

and it was heartening indeed to see a near full house for the first programme highlighting the 30 British short films in competition.

The programme ranged in

subject matter from a portrait of a dysfunctional working class family (*A Fly Went By*) to a bizarre and seemingly endless tube journey with a collection of passengers from hell (*Toles from the Underground*). Among the most impressive films – *Leopard of Tomorrow* was the eventual prize winner – was John McKay's funny and poetic 13-minute *Doom and Gloom*, in which a miserably cold and windy Scottish island is transformed by a new trainee minister whose prayers are unorthodox, to say the least. Malcolm Venville's 11-minute *Silent Film* caught the eye too. The morning of her first baby's hearing test, a young deaf woman remembers how she defied her parents' wishes five years previously. Established



Stephen Frears

directors as Peter Greenaway, Stephen Frears and Mike Leigh also turned in short films.

Britain was also represented in the festival by three main features,

one of which, Roger Michell's *Tyranic Town*, took the Ecumenical Prize. Heading a strong cast, Julie Walters gives a feisty performance in this adaptation of Mary Costello's autobiographical novel about a Belfast housewife battling against both the IRA and the British Army.

Ken Loach's *My Name Is Joe* continued its run of appearances at this year's festivals, carrying off the Audience award in the process, and Locarno also provided an early outing for *Prometheus*, a film adaptation of Tony Harrison's interpretation of Aeschylus's drama.

Elsewhere, the festival proper opened with a commercial crowd-puller – the European premiere of Barry Cook and Tony Bancroft's *Mulan*, the latest from Disney, which

was screened on a baking hot evening under the stars in the Piazza Grande. The studio's latest full-length animated feature deals, a little heavily-handedly, with an ancient Chinese legend, in which a young woman, the eponymous Mulan, disguises herself as a man and secretly takes her father's place in the Imperial army to defend the kingdom.

Animation appeared to have caught the imagination of the festival organisers who awarded Joe Dante an Honorary Leopard and gave his latest film, *Small Soldiers* (a combination of live action and CGI), its European premiere. As for the serious gongs, the Iranian *Dance of Dust* collected the Silver Leopard, and *Mr Zhao*, a Japanese film, was awarded the Gold Leopard.

July 11 2005



# Here's something I prepared earlier

Cheap, quick and easy to make, TV cookery shows are a staple of the schedules. Here's a taster. By David Benedict

Whether you are whipping up a snack, trussing a chicken, or merely stiffening some egg whites, cookery is a serious business. Nowhere more so than on the small screen. TV cookery boils down to the simple question: why be a couch potato when you could be boiling, baking or mashing them with lashings of butter and a sprinkling of chives?

On every conceivable channel these days, professionals and rank amateurs are urging us to "get out in that kitchen and make some noise with them pots and pans" by hopping about in front of designer hobs, beaming away over bouillabaisse or rushing around the country in pursuit of ever more arcane culinary styles.

Last year saw meteoric TV stardom for stand-up comedy hostesses Mel and Sue. They clocked the fact that the kitchen is the natural home of post-modernism and promptly catapulted themselves into the hearts and minds of schedulers with their deliciously arch *Light Lunch*.

At the other end of the spectrum, Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers took this to its logical conclusion. Their *River Café* series was not about food, it was about shopping. Most of us would think twice about splashing out on really good wine, let alone driving to the ends of the earth in pursuit of porcini and a wood-burning stove. (Although their blissfully simple Lemon Spaghetti is a wow.)

Once upon a time, the accent was on calming the nerves of tentative housewives and gently widening the viewers' recipe repertoire. Now everything is predicated on the idea that "food is fun", a game for all the family. I blame Lloyd Grossman.

He taught us that food is competitive with the disgracefully watchable *Masterchef* (I do, however, draw the line at *Junior Masterchef* or "My mummy bought me a Le Creuset set for my tenth birthday, so there.")

That begat *Ready, Steady, Cook* which in turn taught us not to be intimidated by the sorry collection of mismatched items in our food cupboards because Anthony Worrall Thompson is on hand to show us

*Delia is responsible for everything from identikit Christmas dinners across the land to major agricultural changes*

how to make a tasty dish out of three cabbage, an old packet of jelly and a dill pickle. The governing principle here isn't food, it's "entertainment" as epitomised by the hyperactive Ainsley Harriott who makes Rusty Lee look sedated. His *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (or as some call it *Can't Cook, Won't Watch*) is the blueprint for the current blizzard of TV cookery.

So how did it all start? In the beginning was the word and the word was jewellery. I refer, of course, to the eye-boggling rings which, food hygiene be damned, adorned the pastry-rubbing fingers of Fanny Craddock (or Haddock as she was known in our house). Fanny was the fierce head-

And if you think that tie-in merchandising is a Nineties phenomenon, you should know that on top of TV series and live appearances, they published a 96-part weekly cookery magazine.

Fanny also found the time to knock out 10 novels and an autobiography. Emulated Johnnie, meanwhile, was left in charge of the wine and barely spoke, although he is alleged to have uttered the immortal phrase: "I hope all your doughnuts turn out like Fanny's."

Their only real rival came in the altogether more benign and comforting form of the BBC's Zena Skinner. In soothing contralto tones, she took charge of family fare in the crucial six o'clock slot. And very successful she was too, if the number of second-hand Zena Skinner recipe books cluttering up your local Oxfam is anything to go by. Her reign came to an end because, like most things, food is subject to fashion. If you doubt me, look at spinach. In those days it came in cans and accounted for Popeye's biceps. Now it is wilted.

Assiduous telly addicts of 1976 might just recall the programme *Deep Freezing*. In the trade this is known as "Early Delia". The current patron saint of TV cookery, La Smith is nothing less than Laura Ashley in oven-gloves. She even has God on her side as her appearance in *Song of Youth*, part of *Pravda* Be, will testify.

Delia, whose first name alone inspires slavish devotion, is responsible for everything from identikit Christmas dinners across the land to major agricultural changes. Had anyone seriously considered cranberries outside of turkey before she made them famous? Chemists could not withstand the consumer demand when she introduced liquid glucose in a particularly scrumptious Truffle Torte.

The modish programme-style for the 1980s onwards consisted of what Eurovision entrants Bucks Fizz once described as: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." Everything went nationwide for location cookery in the hands of people like Keith Floyd and Nigel Kennedy. And, do not forget the *Two Fat Ladies*, whose old-fashioned exuberance about



Clockwise from the top: Delia Smith; Fanny Craddock and husband Johnny; Nigel Slater and Gary Rhodes

good food is almost smothered beneath the ludicrously camp conceits of their shows. Our beleaguered bakers have cooked for a lacrosse team, the boy scouts and, last week, nuns. Along the way we have had specialisation. The legendary New Zealanders Hudson and Halls were the Julian and Sandy of the dinner party circuit and alcoholic cookery was taken care of by The Galloping Gourmet aka Graham Kerr who has since forsaken the stuff having been born again. Madhur Jaffrey memorably

proved there's more to Indian cuisine than a Friday night vindaloo and has anyone ever seen Ken Hom without his wok? Better still, Jane Asher beat Mary Berry hollow in the *If I Knew You Were Coming I'd Have Baked a Cake* stakes. There are times when you feel as if anyone who ever flirted with a food processor is about to front a series. Why? Because these programmes are extremely cheap to make. After the costs of the concept, the set, and the star, you only have pay for the

crew, the ingredients and the gas bills and you can make it all back with merchandising. Voila! The perfect recipe.

And as for the final culinary frontier, there is always my long dreamt of programme on Jewish/Gay cookery: *Bagel-watch*. Mind you, Nigel Slater's latest book has a chapter on lamb headed "Juicy, young and well-hung".

Nigel Slater's *Real Food* begins on Channel 4 this Thursday

## If the weekend starts here, then I do like Mondays

ITV's replacement for 'The Chart Show' is even worse than expected. It seems music fans of all ages are being short-changed. By Pierre Perrone

MOST SELF-RESPECTING pop fans were dreading it, but it's proved worse than expected. CD:UK, ITV's Saturday morning replacement for *The Chart Show*, has so far, in the pitiful words of Jeremy Paxman in a recent edition of *University Challenge*, "trawled new shallows".

Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly, the young men formerly known as Ant and Dec, and *Byker Grove*'s PJ & Duncan, gave the game away when they admitted in interviews that the original proposal they took to ITV was for a one-hour show aimed at kids. Extending *SMTV/Live* to two hours of cartoons, mayhem and sketches was already stretching it, and tack-

ling on a further 60 minutes of supposedly live music proved too much. The pop show, which can't quite decide whether it's called CD:UK or *Countdown UK* (the shrill submarine diving in an emergency panic-stations jingle shrieks the latter), had the feeling of a proposal written on a paper napkin.

You could all but see producer Ric Blaxill (a *Top Of The Tops* veteran who should know better), conjuring up a magic formula out of thin air: "I've got it: we'll go live to a record shop and ask the record-buying public about their likes and dislikes. We'll have Dr Pop spouting inane trivia and make fun of him, we'll give Ant and Dec a female sidekick, and *Tank*

*Girl* creator Jamie Hewlett will draw a few murals to decorate Studio 2 at the London Television Centre."

Cue a series of vox pops, fronted by two local DJs not even aware they're on live, reprising Mark "Lard" Riley and Mark Radcliffe's Radio One Mancunian double act. All-season Maxwell asking Laura from Cumberland what she bought twice in the same day. Cue, as Dr Pop, Phil Swera - a Radio One producer who comes across like the bastard offspring of *Fantasy Football League*'s Stato and Capital Radio's Dr Fox. Cue a strobe effect, so fiercely blinding throughout Faithless' rendition of *God Is A DJ*, it could have triggered epilepsy in half the na-

tion. Cue moonlighting MTV presenter Cat Deeley claiming Gothenburg is in Germany.

Whichever way you look at it, CD:UK couldn't conceivably be described as "cutting out all the boring bits" and "a very serious and committed move by ITV to brand the network as a home for music", as trumpeted in the press release. It's an "unprecedented commission of 52 weeks", which gives an indication of the business acumen on both sides.

Or maybe not. The cosy relationship between Ant and Dec's production company and some of the acts played out on CD:UK leaves a lot to be desired; American teen sensation Jennifer Paige, whose *Crush*

video has been featured two weeks running, is promoted by the PR company handling the *SMTV/Live* and CD:UK account.

Mind you, she inadvertently provided the show with its only memorable moment so far when Dec quipped "we've got a female lady" as he introduced her. While not quite in the league of seminal music TV moments like Mick Fleetwood and Sam Fox fronting *The Brit Awards*, the "female lady" slip-up is fast becoming a catchphrase around the office.

Maybe I'm being too hard on this shopping-mall pop show designed for teenagers but Another Level's ludicrous *Freak Me* is my favourite British Number One this year.

The *O Zone* and *Fully Booked* are watched by students and adults as well as children. Given its basic approach - stack the videos and play them - *The Chart Show* bridged the generation and genre gaps and gave anyone with a passing interest in music a pop brief for the week.

Over-reliant on teenybop and dance acts miming or at best giving live vocal performances on top of a DAT tape (with a token full-on live band thrown in once in a while), *The Pepsi Chart*, CD:UK, *Top Of The Pops* (though greatly improved under the guidance of director-producer Chris Cowey) are short-changing music fans of all ages. Bring back the *Chart Show*. Now.



Ant and Dec of 'CD:UK'

### THE RATINGS

A staggering 2.2m lead over *Gardeners' World* for the gardening make-over show, *Ground Force*. This can mean only one thing: trugs at dawn in the Blue Peter rockery.

Programme	Total (millions)
1. <i>Ground Force</i>	6.74
2. <i>Gardeners' World</i>	4.41
3. <i>Dad's Army</i>	4.37
4. <i>European Athletics (Sat)</i>	3.75
5. <i>Rab C Nesbitt</i>	3.70
6. <i>Britain At War</i>	3.67
7. <i>Stepoe and Son</i>	3.58
8. <i>Looking Good</i>	3.26
9. <i>European Athletics (Fri)</i>	3.22
10. <i>The Travel Show</i>	2.87

Little changes in the garden that is ITV. Soaps predominate, game shows burgeon and effloresce. But what's this? *The News At Ten*, in with a bullet at No.10?

Programme	Total (millions)
1. <i>Coronation St (Mon)</i>	15.38
2. <i>Coronation St (Sun)</i>	14.35
3. <i>Coronation St (Fri)</i>	13.84
4. <i>Coronation St (Wed)</i>	13.30
5. <i>Emmerdale (Tue/Wed)</i>	10.73
6. <i>Emmerdale (Thu)</i>	10.17
7. <i>Emmerdale (Wed)</i>	9.66
8. <i>Touch of Frost</i>	8.42
9. <i>Wheel of Fortune</i>	8.05
10. <i>News At Ten</i>	7.91

*Family of Cops*, *Babysnatcher*, *Baby School* and *Family Affairs*, no less than five times over - one begins to sense that Channel 5 is operating to an agenda

Programme	Total (millions)
1. <i>Family of Cops</i>	2.21
2. <i>Legacy of Evil</i>	1.38
3. <i>Babysnatcher</i>	1.33
4. <i>Money Plays</i>	1.23
5. <i>Family Affairs (Thu/Fri)</i>	1.22
6. <i>Baby School</i>	1.20
7. <i>Family Affairs (Wed/Thu)</i>	1.16
8. <i>Family Affairs (Tue/Wed)</i>	1.15
9. <i>Family Affairs (Mon/Tue)</i>	1.02
10. <i>Family Affairs (Fri/Sun)</i>	0.99

*Thirio Live* will have been a disappointment to Channel 4, considering the ballyhoo surrounding the show, and the excitable style in which it was made

Programme	Total (millions)
1. <i>Brookside</i>	5.25
2. <i>Friends</i>	5.01
3. <i>Brookside (Wed/Sat)</i>	4.48
4. <i>Brookside (Tue/Sat)</i>	4.17
5. <i>Titanic Live</i>	4.10
6. <i>To Die For</i>	3.52
7. <i>Countdown (Mon)</i>	3.42
8. <i>Hollyoaks</i>	3.34
9. <i>Countdown (Fri)</i>	3.23
10. <i>Countdown (Wed)</i>	3.00

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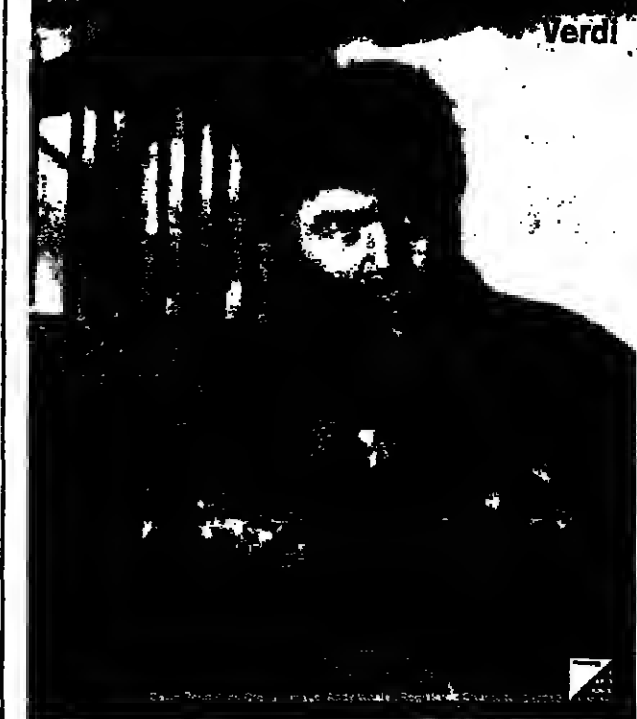
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# NETWORK

## How to chat up a superstar

George Michael's done it. So has Noel Gallagher. It seems you can't log on these days without bumping into a celebrity in a chat room. By Melanie McGrath

It's official. Not only does George Michael sing, hang out in toilets and dance (sort of), but he gives good web chat, too. In an admirable display of keyboarding, Michael tapped out answers to 38 questions posed by some 9,000 fans who joined him at the end of July for a two-hour online chat. Fans as diverse as Denise van Outen and a hyphen from China turned up to the event, which became the largest music celebrity web chat ever.

Coming hard (as it were) on the heels of Michael's spectacular débâcle in a Los Angeles lido, the event was a miracle of timing. It gave Michael direct, if virtual, contact with his fans at a sensitive moment in his career, and in what is often perceived as a more intimate format than radio, print or TV.

Celebrity web chats are becoming a regular feature of the online landscape, and it's not hard to see why. They offer both the celebrity machine – publicists, record or film companies, merchandisers – and the participating Internet service provider enormous opportunities for promotion, merchandising and ad sales while adding value to their web sites. According to Niall MacAnna, special events producer for Microsoft Network, which, together with record company Aegion, orchestrated the George Michael chat, the event added "thousands" of new users to MSN's portal site, MSN Start, as well as hiking sales of CDs and merchandise on both MSN and Aegion's retail sites. MSN was also name-checked by *The Big Breakfast* and GMTV, which ran parallel features and competitions.

"We had mentions in newspapers and radio programmes in the UK alone that had a combined reach of 13 million, which doesn't include the Reuters news feed to 80 different countries or the constant news reports on Radio 1, GLR and Capital," says MacAnna. Which was all good, him, exposure for George Michael. Unsurprisingly, AOL, Virgin Net and CompuServe have also got in on the celebweb act, hosting and sponsoring web chats with stars as diverse as Noel Gallagher and Uri Geller. What is more surprising is that only MSN has so far really run with the idea.

Three of the largest celebweb events ever staged – *The X-Files*, George Michael and James Cameron, director of *Titanic* – have been developed, promoted and administered by MSN here in the UK. That they were staged here and not in the US is in part a testament to the vision of MSN UK and in part a lucky geographical quirk. Competition for stars is fiercer in the US, and media outlets are more scattered. Whereas touring celebrities bypass MSN's headquarters in Seattle, MSN UK is based in London and so more accessible both to our own home-grown talent and to any

visiting movie and music stars.

The MSN UK genius, though, is to have developed, in MacAnna's words, "commercially driven chat". In the past, ISPs relied on a TV model of content provision, producing high-value online "programming" in the hope of attracting viewers and advertisers. Chat rooms were the backstage areas – dark, neglected and often rather grubby spaces intended to provide added value for bored office workers, geeks and lonely hearts.

It's now clear that the TV model didn't work. The Net turned out to be better suited to many-to-many communication than to broadcast. Interactivity and multi-functionality became the watchwords and ISPs like MSN were forced to switch tactics, concentrating instead on providing multi-function, content-rich portals to lure in the mouse potatoes.

The folk at MSN UK, while following the snazzy portal model, turned at the same time to the potential of snazzy chat. "No one else was really considering the possi-

*X-Files stars Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny tapped their responses to online questions in eight languages*

ity that chat could provide the commercial edge," claims MacAnna. Celebrities would be the draw, but chat would actually be the business. A promotional partnership with Hotmail gave MSN UK a link to 18 million active accounts. "And we decided to make the medium sing."

If all this sounds like opportunity, it is. In "going for the biggest possible targets and hoping to get lucky", as MacAnna puts it, MSN had nothing to lose. "Without wishing to be disrespectful, a webcast for *Titanic* uses more or less the same resources as [one for] Lee Hurst."

Other UK-based ISPs have been more tentative in their approach to celebweb chats. Virgin Net webcast events do carry advertising and, says James Cronin, Virgin's new technology manager, "we've had some effective sponsorship in kind. For our webcast from V8, for example, One-to-One gave us some of the mobile phone technology we used to webcast from the crowd and JVC gave video kit."

AOL has taken a different approach, tending to view celebweb as wholly a service to members. "We're a closed system and obviously that does limit us if a celebrity wants maximum access," admits Simon Raven, a producer at AOL UK. Commercialising web chats is, he

says, "more of a future thing. We're testing the system out and getting a feel for what our members want."

So far, MSN UK's aggressive celebweb strategy appears to have paid off. Earlier this year, in the face of fierce competition from AOL in the US, MSN UK won exclusive rights to webcast *The X-Files* live chat. "We won because MSN is out on the free Internet and not behind an exclusive membership enclosure, and because we were able to put a major global deal together to promote the event across all Microsoft properties and partner sites," says Niall MacAnna. The event became the largest single production ever staged by a UK ISP.

In comparison with many of its predecessors, *The X-Files* webcast really was out there. In addition to ad banner displays across Microsoft properties like *Game Zone*, MSN and the MSN sites in the US, Canada, Australia, Japan, Germany, France and the UK, MSN co-promoted with Hotmail, giving it a combined reach of 21 million members and accounts in 24 countries. MSN also promoted the online event with *X-Files* owners, Twentieth-Century Fox. From there, publicity fanned out across the worldwide Murdoch media empire. "The *X-Files* Netshow, testing, ad banners, editorial support and so on had a media value of \$600,000," reckons MacAnna.

On the day of the event, four cameras filmed stars Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny tapping in their responses to online questions from a studio in Hollywood. MSN supplied 9,000 live online video streams in addition to its Netshow webcast, which in turn attracted 21,000 separate cyberspace identities. As well as being able to pose questions in eight languages, and view the stars responding, those who logged on to the event were able to chat among themselves using MSN's Webchat software.

Another smart move has been to locate MSN's big splash events in free space and promote them globally. By being able to promise (and deliver) large audiences, MSN has been able to hike its advertising revenues. Says Niall MacAnna: "For special events [advertising rates] were £10,000 before *The X-Files*. They've been £25,000 since."

The celebrities themselves seem genuinely enchanted by the new vehicle. "A web chat is actually offering [celebrities] a totally different experience. It's on more of an equal basis," says James Cronin at Virgin Net. In a recent Virgin webcast, Brian May stayed on for an hour and a half beyond his allotted time and bravely requested that the final tranche of the webcast be left unmoderated. George Michael, too, overshot his slot. "I really enjoyed myself," he said after the event.

For the celeb and his or her managers, agents and record or film



Nine thousand fans recently visited the George Michael chat-room

All Action

company, the web chat isn't just a PR opportunity, it's a safe house. Though the impression given at a celeb chat is of easy-going banter, questions are generally tightly controlled by online moderators. The celebrity gets one-to-one contact with fans whilst remaining at an impenetrable distance.

For the celebrity, a web chat is a relatively risk-free venture compared with a live TV or radio interview. There are unlikely to be nasty surprises or nutters and he or she gets to be associated with a hip new medium to boot. As Niall MacAnna points out: "George Michael can chat to thousands of his fans online whilst remaining in the privacy of his record company and without intrusive media." In other words, in cyberspace no one can see you cringe.

How long this will last is another matter. Right now, the celebweb

chat remains relatively free of the usual constraints of celebrity media events, but it's surely only a matter of time before agents demand syndication deals and serial fees for web chat transcripts. As more ISPs enter the fray, competition for A-list celebs will inevitably become fiercer.

Meantime, the punters themselves remain circumspect. Though attendance in chat rooms for George Michael's web chat may seem high at 9,000, the figures are still small compared with TV. Disappointment travels fast in cyberspace. Confronted by all the pre-publicity, punter expectations are high and there is anecdotal evidence that they are not yet being met. After the George Michael event, participants in one chat room at Michael's record company seemed unimpressed. "Edge" from New York commented: "Given all the software stuff we

had to load, it was shit, really. I mean, who knows if it was really George?"

Michael's managers remain positive about the medium. "We're very happy with the George Michael chat. It gives artists a greater lead in portraying their own image," says Bob Stamegna of Aegion. Business isn't bad, either. "We have a marked increase in members of the official online George Michael fan club. Internet sales aren't yet mind-bogglingly good but the event increased both sales and awareness," he adds. "Right now we have to be open minded. The Internet is still very much an add-on."

For the time being, the celebweb chat event remains very much in the teething stage, still dependent on more traditional media for its sustenance. But in a couple of years from now, who knows? It may well be biting the hand that feeds it.

## Net user's blues

Is it true that web surfers are prone to 'down' time?

By Vanessa Thorpe

A STUDY carried out in America has found that the phrase "to get connected" is perhaps more than a little euphemistic. Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University found that, far from enhancing ties with the outside world, home use of the Net can breed isolation and depression.

Their findings appear to challenge the popular concept of the "virtual community", where a support network of virtual mates is always there to ease the user's path through life.

The research, published in the journal *American Psychologist*, was carried out for a study dubbed "HomeNet", designed to look at the impact of the Internet on the social life and mental wellbeing of the average American. Some 169 human guinea pigs in 73 formerly Internet-free homes were recruited for the study.

Feedback from the group has revealed that, while the majority of users were quickly hooked on the Net, the increased time spent at the computer was accompanied by a decline in interaction with family and friends. A rise in the reported incidence of loneliness and depression followed.

Teenagers, who tend to use the Internet in longer bouts than adults, were found to be the most vulnerable to negative effects. After two years, the team found that they could predict the changes in a user's emotional state according to the number of hours spent online.

Professor Bill Scherlis, who worked on the study, confirms the disturbing results but says he hopes it will not be used as a stick to beat the medium. "We should simply become more discriminating in our use of the Net," he told *The Independent*. "The challenge is for us to become better users."

The increase in signs of depression among the study group can be clearly associated with their use of the Net, Scherlis says, because of the number of controls that the team introduced during the trial. There was no question, for example, that the study group happened to be full of people who were predisposed to depression. Yet, he emphasises, the findings of HomeNet should be seen in context. "It was a very mild effect, but it was statistically significant," he says. "We want to explore it further, so all other interpretations are speculative at this stage."

On the upside, the urge to communicate has been underlined by the study as the main human motivation for using the Net, as opposed to, say, simply information gathering. The problem is, Internet contact does not appear to be as valuable a form of communication as many of those it replaces.

Bob Kraut, the professor of social psychology who led the research, explains the displacement that may occur in some users' lives, regardless of the fact that they think they are keeping up lots of friendships by e-mail. "People can't easily report on what they are giving up," he says. "For example, I find the Internet very convenient for keeping up with colleagues from my old job. The question is, does the time and energy I devote to these e-mail messages hinder me from forming strong friendships with people in my current workplace or community?"

Professor Scherlis thinks Net users are often deceived into believing they are strengthening their relationships through the Net. What they don't spot is the fallout around them in the real world. "The research shows that although Internet use is in fact a socially positive experience, it may not be as positive as other activities it replaces," he says.

Sociologists distinguish between the kind of friendships you have with people who might actually offer to drive you to the airport and those you have with people you might just say "hi" to when you pass in the corridor.

The \$1.5m study was funded in part by a consortium of IT companies, including Apple Computer, Hewlett Packard, Intel, Panasonic and Lotus Development Corporation, who may now wish they had not bothered.

## Let a foodbot cut the toxins from your trolley

LIKE MANY of the unfortunates who live outside the delivery area for Tesco's online supermarket, I still have to buy my groceries the old-fashioned way. The new EC legislation on labelling for all genetically modified foods has made my shopping trips a lot more entertaining – albeit longer – since it seems to take the best part of the evening to read the labels on my usual basket-load.

I've been an avid label reader since learning that food manufacturers have more than 40 ways of disguising MSG (a toxic substance that gives you headache but appears in hundreds of food products). In recognition of the semantic creativity of the food industry, a campaign was set up (<http://www.truthinlabeling.org>) to provide consumers with clear interpretation of labelling mumbo-jumbo.

Food labels are a source of mystery to most food scientists, not to mention us consumers. However, things get worse with genetically engineered food

labels, as they bring a new meaning to the word "obscure". Since the notion of being a guinea pig in the largest food experiment in the history of humankind is mildly unappealing, many consumers are bringing their magnifying glasses to the supermarket in an attempt to figure out what is lurking in those tinned tomatoes.

The modified food revolution is great for the farmers but not so good for consumers, who may find out that those new food additives can cause allergies, or auto-immune diseases and contain small but potentially harmful amounts of toxins.

Unpredictable side effects are occurring in many genetically modified food products and, unless you studied the labels, you wouldn't know that some alien DNA disguised as fillers appears in many burgers, margarine, vegetarian meat substitutes and even baby products (<http://www.naturallaw.org.nz/genetics/g-danger.htm>). It is estimated that some 60



EVA PASCOE

*The ability to process complex information will drive the survival of the fittest*

per cent of food on supermarket shelves has been tinkered with directly or indirectly, and only a big magnifying glass and a PhD in genetic engineering will guide you through the confusion.

For thousands of years we have relied on our senses for

food selection. Our ancestors survived by perfecting their senses of smell, touch and taste, to be able to detect a poisonous berry, dodgy meat or lethal mushroom. Today, though, you could not tell the difference between two identical tomatoes, one genetically engineered with bacteria-derived kanamycin and the other from a wholesome, organic farm in Devon. They look the same but can have very different effects on your long-term health, or even your children's health.

That means a trip down the supermarket aisles and physical contact with food is simply an obsolete way of shopping for groceries in this new, information-rich age. Now it is the ability to process complex information that will drive the survival of the fittest, and online ordering from home or office will allow you more time to think and read the labels.

Technology may provide a solution to the problem. A new hand-held scanning device will

soon be available that allows you to input your food content preferences. It will run a scan of your selected labels and deliver a Yes/No verdict on suspicious items, screening those found to be unacceptable out of your basket. The authors of the software are also working on an online version of the system, which should be available by the time Tesco rolls out its nationwide home delivery.

The software would still require grocers to provide full label descriptions of their online items (not a current practice, but easy to implement). It would also require them to develop a standard labelling system, something the Ministry of Agriculture has been working on for a long time (<http://www.maff.gov.uk>).

So soon you will be able to send your "foodbot" to your online grocer to sniff out which type of bacon comes from a decent pig and which has been puffed up with some alien DNA. However, to avoid the situation

in which your choice will merely be between more or less foreign DNA in your shopping trolley, you should take an active role in one of the many safe food campaigns. Most of these are based in the US, where food manufacturers are a lot more powerful and have much deeper pockets for lobbying the regulators. Once something is approved over the pond, the likelihood of those food components arriving here in a pure or disguised form is relatively high.

One worthy campaign can be found at <http://www.safe-food.org>. It focuses on crop segregation, labelling transparency and legislation to regulate new food technologies. You can also read about and join another campaign at <http://www.online.sfsu.edu/~rone/gedanger.htm>, where there are helpful instructions on how to shop to avoid genetically engineered foods.

You can e-mail me with your comments on the new food revolution at [eva@never.com](mailto:eva@never.com)

July 2015



# The PC in your mailbox

The police may soon be allowed to read your email and check your Internet use at will. By Paul Lavin

**W**hen you drop an envelope in a red pillar-box, you walk away confident that your mail will not be read by anyone except the addressee. However, when you send an email, it might be wise to reflect on the differences.

According to the organisation Internet Freedom, an agreement being negotiated between the UK's internet service providers (ISPs) and the police will open the email of the UK's eight million Internet users to scrutiny without debate in Parliament or oversight by the courts or the Home Secretary.

British police are said to be close to reaching an agreement with ISPs that will enable them to monitor customers' emails and web usage logs. Chris Ellison of Internet Freedom, says: "Following a series of meetings between the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and Internet industry representatives, we understand that both groups have reached a willingness to reach a memorandum of understanding about implementing police access to private data held by ISPs."

According to David Kennedy, chairman of the Internet Service Providers Association, that is a serious overstatement of the discussions. However, he admits that the UK's ISPs are trying to avoid being flooded by court orders or having the police cart off critical servers for evidence. He says: "We are talking to law enforcement representatives to find a way to work with them within the legal framework that exists. All members of our association take the view that emails are private."

As with the understanding between the Metropolitan Police and the ISPs over "banned" Usenet newsgroups and the closing down of web sites that may breach the law, the significance of such an agreement is that any such police activity may not be subjected to judicial review or legal constraint. Detective Chief Superintendent Keith Ackerman, chairman of the ACPO's computing crimes sub-committee, says: "We want to ensure the criminal doesn't take best advantage of the Internet, without requiring the Government to use the sledgehammer of regulation. However, we are not looking for the ability to go on fishing expeditions."

The ISPs know that they are stuck in the middle, according to Keith Mitchell, chairman of Linx, a partnership of large ISPs. He says: "To divulge private email even under duress would be commercial suicide for an ISP. In some circumstances it would constitute a crime."

Nonetheless, mistakes happen and there are well-known cases where the police have been persuasive. Mitchell says: "The current laws do not adequately protect ISPs or private individuals. We will be active in seeking responsive changes from Parliament."

While there are undoubtedly individuals who use the Internet's email and worldwide web for nefarious purposes, the vast majority of people who use email and the web for personal and business communications have an expectation of privacy. And law-abiding citizens who wholeheartedly support the goals of law enforcement agencies may nevertheless feel uneasy about giving them carte blanche over email. America Online has been quite



British police are said to be close to reaching agreements with service providers which would give them access to email

Tony Nicoletti/Centre Press

vocal in its opposition to opening the doors to the police short of a court order. Many ISPs agree. Julie Hatch, marketing communications director of Easynet, says: "We do not allow anyone to access our customers' email without a court order."

"It makes no difference if it is an estranged wife or a suspicious business partner or anyone else, we would not divulge a subscriber's private email unless we were presented with a court order. This is in accordance with our terms and conditions."

"Our business is also subject to restrictions imposed by the Data Protection Act (DPA), and in any situation we would certainly abide by those rules. So unless a subscriber's actions are illegal, you can say that email is confidential."

The DPA provides scanty protection to email users, however.

While the Act has aspects that protect the quality and use of information held in computer systems, disclosure can be afforded by a

compliant ISP by simply including appropriate language in the small print of their terms and conditions. Data may be revealed to law enforcement officials as long as the subscriber is notified.

Easynet's assurances highlight

*Police say they are not looking for the freedom to go on fishing expeditions*

the differences between ISPs that are classified as telecoms providers, protected from feeling the long arm of the law by a regulatory framework, and those that are merely private businesses unaccountable to anyone but their owners and governed solely by

their contracts with subscribers. As well as Easynet, UK ISPs that are regulated as telecoms providers include BT Internet and Demon, which is now part of Scottish Telecom.

Smaller ISPs are more vulnerable to the persuasive demands of the police. They have no legally protected right of privacy and any redress for email disclosure would only be for breach of contract.

Furthermore, most ISPs now include in their terms and conditions a requirement that the subscriber bear the expense of any legal costs resulting from their use of the service. This could lead to a complaining subscriber having to bear the costs of both sides of a lawsuit against an ISP even if they won.

The most serious aspect of this potential agreement between the police and ISPs is, according to critics, the absence of legal safeguards. In order to tap telephones, the police need the permission of the Home Secretary and must justify violating

the privacy of a suspect. It is not clear from the law whether tapping a telephone and tapping into an email exchange are the same thing.

Chris Ellison says: "This is what is so dangerous about the new culture of private regulation and moral responsibility. ISPs now operate in a moral climate which insists on limitations for freedom of speech. Any material that causes offence - especially to children and ethnic minorities - is regularly removed. ISPs have now embraced this self-censorship credo and are willing to set themselves up as moral arbiters of internet content, filtering out anything that they feel may be illegal."

Without public debate or scrutiny by Parliament, the police are likely to gain, as Liz Parratt from the organisation Liberty puts it, "a snoopers' charter for the Internet". Ordinary users will have little legal protection or redress against police monitoring of their communications. This trend could render the Internet less private and more

regulated than any other communications medium.

"If nothing else, these discussions have demonstrated what self-regulation really means: ISPs undertaking the role of publicly unaccountable instruments of law enforcement."

Email is not like a letter in an envelope; it is more like a postcard. Just as you would not put some messages on a postcard, you should think before you use email for your most private communications. While the legality and desirability of the any agreement between ACPO and the ISPs is highly debatable, anyone interested in maintaining their privacy on the Internet must take responsibility for their own actions.

The agreement between ACPO and ISPs will be the subject of three seminars: 22 September in Edinburgh, 8 October in London and 27 October in Manchester. Additional details can be found at [www.linx.net/misc/acposeminar.html](http://www.linx.net/misc/acposeminar.html).

## BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

THE WEEK started badly for Microsoft's Bill Gates when record stock slides saw his worth fall by more than \$6bn (£2.9bn) on Monday to about \$52bn, at a rate of up to \$4.5m a minute.

Then, on Tuesday, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and 20 states broadened their anti-trust case against Microsoft with an 89-page brief cataloguing further examples of the software giant's business policies involving Apple, Intel, Real Networks, Intuit, Sun Microsystems and Netscape.

The DOJ also criticised Gates's pre-trial testimony, claiming that in nearly 17 hours of questioning, Gates failed to recall many alleged incidents including meetings with Netscape officials to discuss dividing up the browser market.

The DOJ called for Microsoft to hand over new evidence - database details and communications between it and other companies. Microsoft spokesman Mark Murray said: "The government appears to have lost faith in the case it brought last May so it's trying to rewrite its case and expand its allegations without going through the proper legal procedures." However, Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson ordered Microsoft to deliver the evidence.

Microsoft asked that the new evidence be excluded from the case or, if it was not excluded, that the trial scheduled for 23 September be delayed for six months to give them time to respond to the fresh allegations.

The judge made no decision on either request. He said he would address those issues at a pre-trial hearing scheduled for 17 September.

STEVE JOBS, Apple Computers' interim chief executive, outlined some of the key features of the next version of the Mac operating system at the Seybold Publishing conference in San Francisco last week. He said the OS 8.5 upgrade will ship next month after slipping from a July launch.

Jobs said that the upgrade from OS 8.0 will be a "must-

have" piece of software because of its improved performance when saving files over the network - up to three times faster, according to Apple - and improved file and Internet search functions.

Jobs also showed Apple's next-generation operating system, OS X, and demonstrated programs from Adobe, Quark and Macromedia running on the prototype advanced OS, which allows pre-emptive multitasking and uses protected memory features designed to maximise efficiency and reliability of software operation. OS X is scheduled to ship in Autumn next year.

THE FIRST hypertext competition organised by alt.x, the US publishing network, and trace, the international online writing community based at Nottingham Trent University, has been launched with a prize of £1,000 for the best hypertext site written in English on the web.

Although the judges are open to the use of sound, images and Java applets, in the main they are looking for primarily text-based, multi-sequential writing that allows the reader to follow different pathways. Robert Coover, of Brown University, is the overall judge. Deadline for entries is 31 December and full details are on the trace web site (<http://trace.ntu.ac.uk/comp.html>).

A CONSORTIUM of more than 50 telecommunications operators last week signed contracts in a \$1.5bn project for a new fibre-optic cable linking Europe and the United States.

The cable, called TAP-14, has a capacity of 64 gigabytes per second, which is enough to carry 7.7 million calls simultaneously.

About 80 per cent of its capacity will be allocated to Internet and multimedia traffic.

The new system, based on four pairs of optical fibre cable and using the latest digital technologies, has 64 times the

capacity of the current TAT-12/TAT-13 cable network which came online in 1996.

The TAT-14 network linking Germany, England, Denmark, France and the Netherlands to the United States will span more than 22,000 miles and should be in service by the end of 2000.

E-COMMERCE is appreciated in Europe more in theory than in practice, according to a report from Andersen Consulting, which urges measures by both industry and European governments to boost online commerce.

In a survey of more than 300 European senior executives carried out between December 1997 and July 1998, Andersen found corporate leaders were enthusiastic about e-commerce's potential but wary of spending money on new systems.

While 82 per cent of executives surveyed thought e-commerce would have a strategic impact on their businesses in the future, only 39 per cent were acting on that belief. The report

concludes that European governments need to work with businesses to create a regulatory regime that facilitates global e-commerce, encourages new venture capital markets, adopts e-commerce itself, ensures adequate training and retraining, and promotes e-commerce with both business and the public.

REAL NETWORKS is offering a money-back guarantee on a new software package, Super-Planet's CD-Stream, that converts audio CDs into CD-quality RealAudio for personal playback on a PC.

The package allows music CDs to be stored in highly compressed RealAudio format, with up to 30 hours of music per gigabyte of drive space, on a PC hard drive. The software allows the creation of customised playlists for playback as well as standard and random playback. The software can be purchased over a secure link (<http://www.realstore.com/specials/cdstreamer.html>) for a limited time at \$19.95 (£12) instead of the normal \$34.95.

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## WEB SITES

BILL PANNIFER

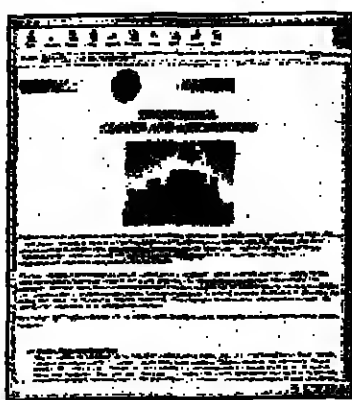
**Stonehenge Clones**  
<http://www.ludymojo.com/stonehenge.html>  
Pagans, postmodernists and Spinal Tap fans will enjoy this collection of simulated Stonehenges of which there seem to be a least half a dozen scattered around the US. With the Wiltshire original subject to unusually severe export restrictions, various replicas have sprung up, from the Georgia Guidestones to the Missouri Megalith, from Washington's all-concrete version to Stonehenge II in Texas.

Although British visitors to the page have found the concept "tacky", some of the re-creations have their uses for academic research. Others, though, are weird, druidical junk sculptures, such as the Carhenges of Nebraska and Ontario - crushed vehicles planted upright with a big-finned car body or two perched on top. Pride of place must go to New Zealand's entry, Frigehenge.

Also monumental, in some sense or other, is the language on display - when in doubt, say "neolithic" or "retro-archaeoastronomical".

**Drink@The Attic**  
<http://www.the-attic.co.uk>  
More ancient traditions - England's idiotic licensing laws, and complaining about the same - are revived here, at what must be one of the most foolproof promotional strategies by a multimedia house.

The company, Atticmedia, has produced a page campaigning for a 2am drinking licence in London. "Have you got the bottle?" it challenges, but the site is unlikely to make many enemies. Basically just a message board for people to offer support, the site also acts as an informal survey; so far, only five of the 500 respondents have declared themselves against the proposal, and these tend to hide behind fictitious addresses.



**Protest.net**  
<http://www.protest.net/>  
This global one-stop resource for social activists lists events and demonstrations worldwide, rallying them all at a single, easily accessible URL. Entries are wide-ranging and genuinely international in scope, stretching from anti-capital punishment rallies in Virginia and a peace march on the Pentagon, to tonight's meeting of Lambeth and Wandsworth Greenpeace, and Saturday's show of pedal power ("cycling solidarity") in Cardiff. There are separate calendars for the US, Canada, Europe, Oceania and Asia, and also an "Online" category, as well as a reminder service which sends an e-mail a few days ahead of a chosen event. The site's creator hopes to prove there is actually more protest going on now than in the Sixties -

it is less visible now only because it is more widely dispersed. But the overall tone is entrepreneurial as well as revolutionary. "Radical Walking Tours" of New York's Lower East Side are heavily plugged, as, more centrally, is the clever event management software which drives the site.

**Monster Home**  
<http://www.monsterhome.com/>  
The magic word "convergence" hovers protectively around this attempt at an Internet movie, an hour-long thriller which claims to be the first feature actually created for the Web. The plot, involving a dying millionaire, squabbling siblings, involuntary organ donation, Nazi genetics and a dead parrot, is split into short RealPlayer sequences. The order of viewing can be chosen within each "chapter", though the interactive options are fewer than with recent DVD attempts. The actors are game enough, but the most effective bits may still be the more web-familiar elements used to pad out the live action: some evocative animation, comic-strip frames, and other narrative shortcuts. There are also hacked e-mails, fake web sites-within-web sites and monitors and surveillance cameras galore - these familiar viewer/voyeur thrills are where the interactivity lies, as much as in the actual structure. Watching this in prime time telephone courtesy of BT could approach the cost of a trip to the movies, all for, depending on the connection, some jittery sound and jerky credit-card size images. But it's basically an experiment - the Canadian company, Image Business, has more ambitious plans once bandwidth allows.

Send your interesting, quirky or even (at a pinch) cool site recommendations to [webites@dircom.co.uk](mailto:websites@dircom.co.uk)

## Lessons kids can teach us

## WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

*School kids are coming to the Web in droves for their educational needs*

I HAVE been using computers since I was a kid. I first sat down at one when I was eight. Back in the late Seventies, the dawn of the digital age, computers were much simpler yet so much more complex than they are today. You had two colour choices, a green screen or an orange screen, and all interaction was conducted through commands typed in line by line. No one worried about megabytes or megahertz and everything was stored on floppy disks - and they were quite literally "floppy".

I remember a glowing orange screen full of cryptic symbols and infinitely scrolling text. I stared in amazement as the screen changed at my whim. I once spent an afternoon on my dad's business computer creating a Christmas tree out of letters, numbers and symbols, only to have it destroyed with the flip of a switch when dad was ready to go home (a lesson in the ephemeral nature of information created on the cathode ray tube).

No one worried much about the "user interface" in those days, and operating system manufacturers could not have cared less about the way in which children might interact with their computers because kids did not buy them back then. But this didn't stop me and other kids from trying to do everything we could to use computers. It is often the young who are the first to adapt and accept new ideas, whether these ideas are targeted towards them or not.

Around the country children are returning to the classroom this week, and the Web is quickly becoming an

indispensable tool for teachers dealing with every age group from elementary through to university. The Web started as a medium of education, and despite the vast store-fronts and banner ads, providing educational information is still at the Web's core. You can explore museums in your home town, such as the Larsson exhibit at the V&A (<http://www.vam.ac.uk/larsson/index.html>), or check out what's hot at San Francisco's Exploratorium in the United States (<http://www.exploratorium.edu/>).

School kids are coming to the Web in droves for their educational needs as well as for entertainment. As they do, designers are increasingly finding themselves creating for this unique niche audience. And, unlike in my day, kids have a lot more to say about the computers being bought, not to

mention the products being bought on them.

Designing Web sites for a young audience, let's say 6- to 14-year-olds, just to pick an arbitrary demographic, is different from developing content for an older age group. Ironically, this is not because there are more rules, but because, in many ways, there are fewer rules. Kids do not come to a web site with as many do and don't rules. They are less concerned with the dictates of "good" design and are far more concerned with the pure experience of the site. What might seem garish, outlandish and even tasteless on a site for adults might draw kids by the millions.

If you look at some of the most popular sites for children, such as the cable television networks Nickelodeon (<http://www.nickelodeon.co.uk/>) or the Cartoon Network (<http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/>) you will begin to notice a few things:

Bright and colourful graphics. There is a trade-off between having large, colourful graphics and sparse, flat colours on the screen. The large graphics take longer to download, and for children's short attention spans this can get boring. But the eye candy is often part of the fun.

Constant motion and activity. Kids love movement and like to see things changing on the screen. In addition, sound is another great way to attract attention.

Interactivity and instant feedback. Not only do kids like to see change on the screen, they like to feel responsible for that change. JavaScript rollovers, Flash animations and

other devices let kids feel as if they are doing something. They can never give a kid too much control over a Web page.

Navigation that invites exploration. Unlike older audiences who want to get where they are going as quickly as possible, kids do not mind exploring and often find the journey more fun than the arrival.

Remember, kids are not stupid. They know when they are being sold stuff, and they often enjoy more than just titillation. A great example of how a kids' site can both entertain and inform is the Adventures of Banph (<http://www.banph.com/>). This site combines excellent visuals with a rich, interactive and intriguing storyline.

As with all audiences, you have to get to know the particular needs, desires and dislikes of the potential visitors to your site. If you have the time, money and resources, go directly to the source by interviewing members of the age range you are targeting and getting their reaction to your site. In addition, the Association of Computing's Special Interest Group on Computer Human Interaction (SIGCHI) has a regular column in their bulletin on children and computers (<http://www1.acm.org/sigchi/sigchi/bulletin/>) by Allison Drulin, founder of CHIKids, a programme devoted to understanding how kids interact with computers.

Next week we'll look at how kids are designing for the Web.

E-mail your comments or queries to Jason Cranford Teague at [indy\\_webdesign@mindspring.com](mailto:indy_webdesign@mindspring.com)

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- 6) Development experience in 'C/C++' useful

Both positions are for career minded individuals only.

Call Pam Jennings at Vision on 01908 319600

Tel: 01908 319600

Fax: 01908 319638

e-mail: [mafl@visionit.co.uk](mailto:mafl@visionit.co.uk) web: [www.visionit.co.uk](http://www.visionit.co.uk)

## RDB PROGRAMMERS AND ANALYSTS

International software Consultancy currently looking to recruit a number of graduates with a minimum of 3 years commercial experience in one of the following areas:

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Salary up to £25k plus bonus to commensurate with experience. Please send CV to The Secretary, Unison Software International Ltd, Airport House, Purley Way, Croydon CR0 0XZ or Fax to 0181 287 9348.

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Computer Professionals for projects across the UK. If you have a proven track record in any of the following areas, we will be interested to hear from you:

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ORACLE, PARCA, DCL, ICL, COBOL, PC EXPRESS, PC SAS, ACCESS, VISUAL BASIC, ACUMEN, SQL SERVER, LOTUS NOTES, LAN/WAN SUPPORT

Applicants will ideally possess over two years' industry experience, with a degree level education desirable. Salaries negotiable according to skills and experience. CVs to: Ms A Nuttall, Information Management Resources plc, Link House, St Mary's Way, Chessham, Bucks HP5 1HR

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Previous applicants will be considered and need not reapply.

Further information regarding the position, and details of how to apply are available from:

Personnel Services  
University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd CF37 1DL  
Telephone: 01443 482004 (Direct line - 24 hour service)  
If you need to speak to a member of Personnel Services, please ring 01443 482021. Application forms and further particulars are available on e-mail by contacting: [cedavies2@glam.ac.uk](mailto:cedavies2@glam.ac.uk)

Closing date: 28th September 1998

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Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

Information & Technology Directorate  
IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN  
(A&C5)

Salary: CIRCA £14 - 18,000 DEPENDENT ON EXPERIENCE

The Trust: An Acute service NHS Trust, employing approximately 1700 staff on three sites. Joyce Green Hospital is two minutes away from the M25 at the Dartford River crossing, making it accessible for many parts of the South East. We are the flagship PFI hospital rebuild ready for commissioning in the year 2000 and offer an exciting opportunity for the right candidate.

The Role: To manage on a day to day basis the LAN network infrastructure of the Trust and to ensure the smooth running of the systems across the network. Duties will include maintaining an accurate library of network documentation, troubleshooting of the LAN and, where necessary, replacement or reconfiguration of network hardware/software. Also the role will include travel between the three sites, and backup support to the other members of the IT team.

The Person: Ideally the person will be educated to graduate level and have eighteen months to two years relevant experience with skills or knowledge of the following: Routers and Bridges, Cabletron Hubs, HP Openview, and UNIX administration, Windows NT and VMS would also be an advantage.

For an application pack please contact: Personnel Services Department, Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, Kent DA1 5PL Tel: (01322) 283599 (24 hr answerphone).

Please quote reference number: 273/3/SJW

Closing date for completed applications: 21st September 1998



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July 2005



## Global Planning and Bid Manager

Our client is a leading provider of an extensive range of innovative fixed and mobile telecommunications. Due to continued expansion, they are currently seeking a Global Planning and Bid Manager, responsible for the development of complex \$multi-million bids.

You will be establishing business matrices and operational plans, whilst managing the formulation of the business process interface with your customers.

You'll have a strong track record in bid preparation and project management, with demonstrable experience in business process improvements and planning gained in a telecomms and/or IT environment.

Please write with your CV, quoting reference number 450811A, salary details and daytime telephone number to our advising consultants Goodman Graham International, 8 Beaumont Gate, Sharnley Hill, Radlett, Herts WD7 7AR. Fax: 01923 854791. Closing date for applications is Monday 28th September 1998.

## Launch a new phase in your career

### Systems Accountant

Northwood, Middlesex

Salary - c£40k

The Ministry of Defence with an annual budget of over £20bn is fundamentally changing the way it manages its resources and operations. A programme which began in 1996 will put the MoD onto the same footing as a commercial organisation, moving from a cash-based accounting system to resource accounting and budgeting (RAB), with annual reports and accounts. The ultimate aim is to measure defence capability and full costs, and to apply the commercial practice of adopting techniques and tools to enable more efficient management of resources at all levels.

At this exciting time of fundamental change, we need to strengthen our change team with accountants who have finely tuned commercial skills to manage the continued implementation and operation of RAB. It's a chance to assign a unique perspective to your career, develop management skills and be instrumental in one of the biggest changes you are ever likely to witness.

You will be a qualified CCA8 accountant with at least three years' experience in a commercial environment. Excellent communication skills, an ability to provide effective briefing to all management levels should be coupled with strong technical skills and a good knowledge of IT/MIS and SUN accounting systems.

As Systems Accountant you will be required to ensure that the integrity of the systems used to implement Resource Accounting and Budgeting in CINCFLEET is maintained at all times. Reporting to the Chief Financial Accountant, you will be responsible for the development and maintenance of sound, flexible management information systems to meet CINCFLEET's needs.

This appointment will be for an initial period of three years, with the possibility of an extension to five years or permanency. A relocation package and membership of the non-contributory civil service pension scheme is available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 25th September 1998) write to Mrs J Applegate, Ministry of Defence, Acc Pers, Rm20, Pinesgate East, Lower Bristol Road, Bath BA1 5AB. Telephone 01225 449562, alternatively e-mail: cm(pers)2.mor@CINCFLEET.GOV.UK

Candidates may be considered for other posts within the MoD.

We are an equal opportunities employer and are fully committed to equal opportunity policies. The Ministry of Defence positively welcomes applications from suitably qualified individuals, irrespective of racial origin, sex or disability.

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It will be a complex undertaking, calling for creative solutions and involving some hard decisions but, by the same token, a challenge that will appeal to graduates (possibly with MBA) with at least three years' commercial experience, and ideally an understanding of

financial accounting processes or systems. A successful track record in business process analysis and re-design - gained from an accounting, consulting or business analysis background - would be ideal, though is of less importance than the quality of your intellect and analytical ability. A talent for practical problem-solving, a natural ability to work as part of a high quality team and excellent interpersonal skills will be key. We are looking for results-oriented achievers who are keen to make a major strategic impact, and whilst financial services experience could be an asset, it is by no means essential. Character, calibre and credibility will be the main factors.

To apply, please telephone our consultant Conrad Hills on 0171-253 7172 during office hours. Alternatively, please send full career details, quoting ref: 1912, to him at JM, Chondos House, 12-14 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AQ. Fax: 0171-253 0420. E-mail: response@jms.co.uk

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## LSE

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You will be expected to provide a range of IT support activities which includes desktop support, customised training and general troubleshooting. Ability to provide specialist support for software used by staff and research students, assisting in their development of desktop applications meeting academic and department needs, while helping to implement and maintain an appropriate IT strategy are all important facets of the role. Acquisition of further specialist skills will be expected as required. Educated to degree level or equivalent you must demonstrate interest in social science disciplines in a research and teaching environment. Good interpersonal, analytical and communications skills are essential along with at least two years' experience in providing support for a range of Windows and Windows 95 applications in a networked PC environment. In-depth experience of using Windows 95, common office and network applications, including Microsoft Office products and electronic mail (Ideally Exchange), is highly desirable. Ability to support a user population with a diversity of IT experience and requirements is essential.

For further details please phone 0171-865 1133 or email recruitment@lse.ac.uk with your postal address. Please quote reference number H008.

Closing date for applications 24 September 1998. The LSE is an educational charity committed to equal opportunities and excellence in teaching and research.

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## ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS

- 3 POSTS

### Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

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The Department for Computation and Information (DCI) of the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CLRC) provides advanced computing and information systems support and development for the UK R & D community and itself undertakes contract R & D projects. DCI's Enterprise Solutions Unit (ESU) within Information Systems Engineering Division has 3 vacancies for well qualified, highly motivated analyst/programmers in the following areas:

RDBMS and WWW interface design/programming to provide solutions to a range of MIS-related problems.

Research and development in the areas of business process, workflow management systems, and applications of advanced database techniques.

Knowledge of other related areas could be an advantage. Experience with topics such as requirements analysis, system architecture design and object-oriented design and programming (C++, Java) is desirable. Technical documentation production is a requirement for most projects.

The ideal candidates will possess a good degree in computer science or a related scientific subject, and be capable of working as part of a team with a mixture of backgrounds (some projects would benefit from a knowledge of one or more European languages). The ability to work well with customers and colleagues is expected.

Overall, ESU's role is to provide effective solutions to enterprise-wide problems, primarily by innovative exploitation of business process, WWW, and information management technologies. The Unit, with 12 members of staff, currently has a range of projects from the provision of CLRC management information services via WWW interfaces, to a range of European-funded R & D projects with local business process, workflow management, and Computer-Supported Co-operative Working. Additional training will be provided as necessary. Some of the positions involve travel, mainly in Europe.

The posts are for a fixed term period of three years. The salary range is between £12,040 & £24,820 (1998 pay award pending). Further progression is dependent upon performance. A non-contributory pension scheme, flexible working hours and a generous leave allowance are also offered. Information on the work of the Unit is available from the CLRC Web at <http://www.cclrc.ac.uk/Group/DCISESU/> or via Dr Ken Robinson Ext 6491 or email K.Robinson@clrc.ac.uk

Application forms can be obtained from Recruitment Office, Personnel Division, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX. Telephone (01235) 445485 (answerphone) quoting reference VN1680/98. More information about CLRC is available from CLRC's World Wide Web pages at <http://www.cclrc.ac.uk>

All applications must be returned by 4 October 1998. The CLRC is committed to Equal Opportunities and to achieving the Investors In People standard. A no smoking policy is in operation.



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- ◆ A highly developed blue-chip client base including the vast majority of the FTSE350.
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- ◆ A commission structure based on merit and fee performance with no upper limit.

Michael Page Technology offers a unique opportunity to join an already established business at a time of substantial investment and dynamic growth. Current success reflects the

quality, performance and commitment of our consultants. In order to achieve our ambitious growth plans, we seek to recruit exceptional individuals to join our business across the UK and worldwide.

Interested applicants (aged 24-30) will need to demonstrate flair, energy, ambition, a sustained capacity for hard work and a desire to succeed in our culture of team work. Ideally you will have some or all of the following:

- ◆ 1-2 years experience in recruitment.
- ◆ Knowledge and experience of the IT industry.
- ◆ A successful track record in sales.

In return, we offer a remuneration package which is designed to attract the very best individuals within the industry, comprising upper quartile basic salary, substantial profit share and executive benefits.

For further information, please contact Chris Nelson, Director, on 0171 269 2232 or write to him enclosing a CV together with further information relevant to your application at Michael Page Technology, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.



## JMU

## edam

The Electronics Design and Manufacturing (EDAM) Centre is a joint venture between Liverpool John Moores University, industry on Merseyside and the European Regional Development Fund aimed at helping industry with technology transfer, consultancy and training. Following the overwhelming success of the centre, job opportunities have now arisen for suitably qualified staff:

### Software Engineers

£18,000 - £26,000 2 posts, 1 year fixed term contract initially

Please Quote Ref: A0442IND

Essential Skills: 2-5 years professional C programming ideally on a UNIX platform.

Desired Skills: Real-time applications, embedded systems and OMR.

### Software Librarian/Archiver

£20,000 - £26,000 1 year fixed term contract initially

Please Quote Ref: A0443IND

Essential Skills: 2 years minimum version control, documentation, RCS, CVS.

Desired Skills: Real-time project development experience and SOA, C programming on UNIX.

### Electronic Engineers

£20,000 - £26,000 2 posts, 1 year fixed term contract initially

Please Quote Ref: A0444IND

Essential Skills: 3-5 years experience in embedded and distributed systems design and test; real-time software.

Desired skills: Experience in motion control hardware, PLC's, test software for embedded hardware.

Situated in a modern attractive building, EDAM offers challenging work in a relaxed environment in one of the fastest growing sectors of the industry. For an informal discussion please contact EDAM Manager, Dr A. Javed, on 0151-231 2626 or e-mail: [edam@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:edam@liverpool.ac.uk)

Closing date for the above posts 25th September, 1998.

Further particulars are available from: Personnel Services, Liverpool John Moores University, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5UX.

Tel: 0151-231 3549 or 0151-231 3168

(24 hour answerphone).

E-mail: [jobs@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@liverpool.ac.uk)

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## Comms & Control

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Due to the opportunity to expand the scope of DSP R&D activities, the Mobile Communications and Control division is seeking a DSP R&D Engineer. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and development of DSP R&D systems, including speech processing, signal processing, and control systems. The candidate should have a degree in Electronics Engineering or equivalent, and experience in DSP R&D systems. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to: DSP R&D Engineer, Mobile Communications and Control division, 13 Bruton Street, London W1A 2BT. Tel: 0171 333 0032.

### Engineering Consultants

Our client is one of the fastest growing consultancy companies in the UK, with a strong reputation for the design and development of software systems. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and development of software systems, including the design and development of software systems for the design and development of software systems. The candidate should have a degree in Electronics Engineering or equivalent, and experience in software systems. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to: Engineering Consultants, 13 Bruton Street, London W1A 2BT. Tel: 0171 333 0032.

### Radio Communications

This is not only one of the most prestigious and challenging areas of the telecommunications industry, but also one of the most successful. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and development of radio communications systems, including the design and development of radio communications systems for the design and development of radio communications systems. The candidate should have a degree in Electronics Engineering or equivalent, and experience in radio communications. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to: Radio Communications, 13 Bruton Street, London W1A 2BT. Tel: 0171 333 0032.

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## Certes Computing Ltd APPLICATION SUPPORT

Our client, a software house, require you to support an internationally used customer information system. You will need a detailed knowledge of data processing specific to telecommunications, including experience of telecoms billing systems and inter administration accounting. You will be skilled in Cobol, Decforms, ACMS, CSM, DCL, SQL and RDB on VMS, and educated to degree level. Location: London Duration: 24 months

If you are interested, to apply, please contact the Candidate Services Department on 0121 712 8767 and quote reference no: 11897

Vision IT Recruitment Bessemer House 3 Canon Harnett Court Wolverton Mill Milton Keynes MK12 5NF

## VISION IT Recruitment

### 'C' and UNIX Developer

**Bracknell** to £20,000 + Benefits  
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### Telecoms Engineers/Consultants

**London** £20 - £35,000 + Bens...  
Large Consultancy require engineers and consultants with a degree and/or experience in the design and development of applications within the Telecoms sector. Experience in GSM, Intelligent Networks, Voice Mail, Cellular Planning, and Power Electronics and SIM Cards is a bonus. Well established company expanding rapidly. Please call Lee Porter on 0171 839 2626. Ref: LP-0113/9P

### Object Technology Development

**Aylesbury** to £35,000 p.a.  
My client are a highly skilled Applications Development company, capable of delivering the most complex and technically advanced solutions for businesses. They urgently require Visual C++ developers with core competencies in object oriented design to work on the construction of business applications based on Distributed Object technologies. For the right person, salary and benefits will be impressive. Ref: MB-0117/9P

### OO Application Designers

**Fleet, Hampshire** to £45,000 + car  
Exciting opportunity to join one of the world's largest computer solutions providers and Europe's fastest growing IT business on a greenfield site in Hampshire. Experienced Object oriented developers and designers. There will never be another opportunity like this one. You will never again be offered the diversity of projects they can offer! Ref: AS-0115/9P

### SAP Peoplesoft, BAAN, BPCS, JD Edwards

**Countrywide** £25k - £30k  
My consultancy clients have a need for the above skills, that some significant salary increases are on offer for the right experience. If you have as little as nine months commercial technical experience (not solely user experience) in any of these packages, then we can help. Particularly favoured at present is experience in ABAP or BASIS. "Super Users" of Peoplesoft are also welcome. Ref: JA-0113/9P

### Powerbuilder Development

**Northwood, Middlesex** to £32,000  
Innovative company involved in the development of applications for Human Resources and Personnel departments, are now seeking talented developers. Ideally you will have acquired at least 2 years experience of any version of Powerbuilder. This is not just straight GUI building, you will be actively involved in the full development life cycle. Any experience of SQL would be beneficial. Ref: JJ-0115/9P

### Visual C++ Analyst Programmers

**Peterborough** Salary £20,000 to £35,000  
This is a young, rapidly expanding company which specialises in developing innovative Retail Software products. They are looking to recruit a team of dynamic developers who have at least 1 years experience in a development environment using Visual C++ & MFC. They are also looking to recruit a number of Graduates keen to progress in this field. Ref: PG-0118/9P

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**City** Excellent Salaries and Benefits  
This is a great opportunity to secure a position with this well established financial solutions provider to the finance sector. You will come from a financial or business background and will be familiar with UNIX/NT, ORACLE, VISUAL BASIC, C++ and JAVA. More important though is your business analysis and management skills. Please call Lee Porter on 0171 839 2626. Ref: LP-0114/9P

### Powerbuilder - Financial Sector

**London** £25,000  
Exciting staff - a greenfield development project deep in the heart of the city's financial sector. Not a consultancy but an end-user for a change, this is one of the biggest players in future and options trading. A minimum of eighteen months Powerbuilder experience is required for this project performing pure development of a new deal capture system for a foreign exchange front desk in Powerbuilder 6, PFC and Oracle 7.3. Ref: JA-0114/9P

### Database Analyst/Programmer

**Bracknell, Berkshire** £25,000 + Bens...  
Applications programming to enhance, develop and support new and existing software packages within our clients Newspaper and Credit Management division. You could become involved in the following projects: Data conversion, processing systems, database development. The successful candidate must have experience in any of DBase, dBase, dBase or Clipper. FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!!!! Ref: RA-0117/9P

### Applications Development Manager

**Berkhamsted, Herts** £30-35k + Excellent Bens  
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### Visual C++ and Visual Basic

**Bracknell, Berkshire** to £35,000 + Benefits  
Visual C++ and Visual Basic developers required to work for a world leading communications company. Within this company you will be working with leading edge technology including frequency hopping communications and navigation systems. You will have at least 1 years experience of Visual C++ or Visual Basic and enjoy working in small and highly technical teams. Ref: GR-0111/9P

### 1 yrs Visual Basic

**Milton Keynes** Salary to £22,000  
Our client is looking for Visual Basic developers with 1 years experience to work in the Milton Keynes area. Training will be given to the successful applicant. You will need to be a very enthusiastic individual with a great desire to succeed. Ref: PG-0128/9P

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July 12th 1998



## NEW FILMS

### HANDS (AKA PALMS) (PG)

Director: Amir Arastakis  
The director of this harrowing semi-documentary has been compared to Pasolini and Tarkovsky, the press notes assure us, but though this is an imaginatively realised rumination on the workings of the modern world, the picture is deadening in a way that those directors' best work never was. The film is simple and precise in its methods; as images of downtrodden and forgotten citizens - humpbacks, beggars, the very young, the elderly - are played out before us in a moving collage, a man narrates a message to his unborn child, who may be being aborted even as he speaks.  
West End: Renoir

### HE GOT GAME (18)

Director: Spike Lee  
Starring: Denzel Washington, Ray Allen, Milla Jovovich  
The plot of Spike Lee's muddled tale is pure poppycock: Jake Shuttleworth (Denzel Washington) is doing time for the murder of his wife, but is offered a deal, out of the blue, which could cut short his sentence. It has come to the attention of the Governor that Jake's son, Jesus (Ray Allen), is the country's hottest new basketball star. If Jake can convince Jesus to sign with the Governor's alma mater, then he can look forward to early release. Jake agrees, and is dispatched into the outside world on this errand. However, there is one seemingly insurmountable obstacle in Jake's path - his son has vowed never to forgive him for his mother's murder.  
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

### THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Director: David Leland  
Starring: Catherine McCormack, Rachel Weiss, Anna Friel, Steven Mackintosh  
This gentle comedy from David Leland (director of *Wish You Were Here*) leads you into familiar territory, but manages to infuse the experience with warmth and wit. Rachel Weiss,

Anna Friel and Catherine McCormack are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising - sexual awakening, broad laughs, a smattering of tragedy - but nicely done.  
West End: Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

Director: Whit Stillman  
Starring: Chloe Sevigny, Kate Beckinsale, Chris Eigeman  
In the fictional club at the centre of Whit Stillman's dry and slightly sad comedy, everything sparkles - under the light from the glitterball, the dancers are united in their absent-minded beauty, and pockets of glitter fall from the ceiling even as the club is being busted by cops. But you couldn't accuse the picture of being nostalgic - as with Stillman's previous films *Metropolitan* and *Barcelona*, actions and emotions unfold with a knowing wink toward the future. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Richmond Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### SPECIES II (18)

Director: Peter Medak  
Starring: Michael Madsen, Natasha Henstridge, George DuZa  
Ludicrous science-fiction horror about a strand of deadly alien DNA carried back to earth in the bodies of astronauts. Cornball dialogue and a healthy abundance of sex and violence make this passable B-movie fun.  
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

## GENERAL RELEASE

### ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### THE AVENGERS (12)

Ralph Fiennes does the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Una Thurman pours herself into a catsuit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kilt as Angus De Winter, who plans to take over the world by controlling the weather. Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur whose blend of nursery rhymes, day-glo colours and moral lessons make him ideal for the more understanding pre-school viewer, an endurance test for anyone else. Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

### LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem. ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Mayfair

### EVE'S BAYOU (15)

Rites-of-passage drama set in Louisiana locations which have been devalued by too many Southern Comfort ads. Despite some intuitive observations, this feels for the most part like reheated *Fried Green Tomatoes*. Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

### GADJO DILO (15)

A young Parisian journeys through rural Romania on a quest for the gypsy singer whose music he discovered through his father. There is a warmth and humour to the storytelling which pushes this film way beyond being mere sentimental travelogue. Renoir

### GODZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up such blockbusters as *Star Trek* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun. Unfortunately on this occasion, their light touch has deserted them. Empire Leicester Square

### THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's over-long and deeply indulgent film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology. He agrees to help New York magazine editor Kristin Scott Thomas whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

### LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture character is by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high stakes card-game, falls into the former; but a Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### LOST IN SPACE (PG)

Yet another cult 1960s television series to get an expensive makeover but the film-makers have remained faithful to the original tone. William Hurt stars as a frosty scientist who journeys with his family into space to save the Earth from environmental destruction. Odeon West End

### THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and courtesy of the inevitable Celine Dion, sounds - even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits. Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### METROLAND (18)

Seventies suburban morality tale in which Christian Bale plays a man festering somewhere in the commuter belt when his oldest friend thinks that he ought to be out having fun. There are some endearing moments but, on the whole, director Philip Saville shows a dispiriting lack of ambition. Virgin Trocadero

### MR NICE GUY (15)

This largely disappointing addition to Jackie Chan's oeuvre has its moments - a fight scene on a construction site is a particular delight. But the combination of comedy and adventure doesn't gel; it may be the first Chan film that wouldn't even look good if you were plastered. Virgin Trocadero

### THE PROPOSITION (12)

Dismal period drama in which feminist writer Madeleine Stowe and priest Kenneth Branagh become entangled after she discovers her fat-cat husband (William Hurt) is unable to father a child. Salacious tosh. ABC Pantons Street

### THE REAL HOWARD SPITZ (PG)

The *Real Howard Spitz*, a sunny comedy about a children's writer (Kelsey Grammer, aka Frazier) who hates children, is director Vadim Jean's most likeable work. Originality may be thin on the ground but the direction is breezy and Grammer has a lovely, grouchy demeanour. UCI Whiteleys

### THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

David Duchovny's intricate little thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it locks; there is a scientific detachment about the way he explores every permutation of his Kafkaesque scenario, though the movie is also slyly funny. Barbican Screen, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### THE X-FILES (15)

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully and, for their first big-screen outing, get a meaty conundrum to chew on involving a shifty secret government and a deadly virus from outer space. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging, though little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness. ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

### ZERO EFFECT (15)

Pleasing thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish, tabs and amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case. Ultimately, the film feels a little shallow and self-conscious, but it puts a smile on your face for most of its duration. Warner Village West End

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



### Film Ryan Gilbey

BILL PULLMAN (left) is a hoot as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish, tabs and amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case. In *Zero Effect*, a neat comedy from 23-year-old Jake Kasdan (son of Lawrence), Pullman, who has recently specialised in gruff-voiced "serious" roles (such as the US president in *Independence Day*), gets back to playing comedy. His performance is manic, even seething, yet brimming with compassion.  
On general release  
Pierce Brosnan has brought quite a lot of charm to the role of James Bond, keeping things just slightly ironic, while managing to convince as a pretty good hero as well. Goldeneye is the better of his two Bond films, with great stunts, plenty of pretty women and all the standard and well-loved 007 features, though *Tomorrow Never Dies* is quite good fun, too, if you like lots of chases and explosions.  
NFT1 (0171-928 3232), London SE1. *Goldeneye* 6.10pm, *Tomorrow Never Dies* 8.40pm

### Theatre Dominic Cavendish

In *Full Gloom*, Mary Louise Wilson resurrects Diana Vreeland, the Sixties-shaping editor-in-chief of American *Vogue* in all her sharp-witted, opinionated glory. Crazier than leopard-skin, this monologue - cowritten with Mark Hampton - also leaves the impression of a life as tarnished as a smudged lipstick kiss.  
*Hampstead Theatre, London, NW3 (0171-722 9301) 8pm*  
Toyah Wilcox and Joe McGann (right) bring real charisma to the parts of Cash and Maria, the couple who never quite seem to get it together in Bob Carlisle's sprightly revival of Arthur Smith's "adult comedy", *Live Bed Show*, touring the land until November.  
*Key Theatre, Peterborough (01733 552 439) 7pm*



### Pop Tim Perry

TO COINCIDE with the release of their fine *The Boy With The Arab Strap* album, Scottish octet Belle & Sebastian (right) get out of their houses to play a handful of dates. It's always been a debating point whether or not they can translate their delicate pop sounds onto the stage, but there's should be some skin-pricking moments. If not, then the support act, Elliot Smith, is a banker for a solid performance. After a few club gigs and an appearance at Reading 98, it won't be too long until this Oregon singer is headlining this joint himself.  
*Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12 (0171-771 2000) 7.30pm*  
Another band out on the road plugging a new album are Mancunians. Purescence, whose brand of moody guitar rock gets a unique lift from the fragile-sounding larynx of James Mudrick. While not that immediately gripping, they're not a bad option for a Monday evening.  
*King Tut's, Glasgow (0141 221 5279) 8pm*



### Classical Richard Bouwman

WHAT WITH all the excitement over the Proms, it's easy to overlook some really excellent summer musical events. One that should not be missed is the London Masterclasses. Organised over the past 10 years by pianist Norma Fischer, the event, which begins today and lasts throughout the week, brings together eminent musicians, including tenor Stuart Burrows (today's masterclass), cellist Ralph Kirshbaum, violinist Grigori Zhilinskii and conductor Benjamin Zander. It's a truly rare opportunity to see great music in the making.  
*St Cyprian's Church, Glenhorth Street, London NW1 (info: 0181-346 7088; masterclasses 17, concerts 18)*  
And what about a bit of Mozart to spice up a summer evening? British Youth Opera perform a fully staged version of *Così fan tutte* tonight (in English). Best of all, tickets are just a fiver.  
*Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (0171-960 4232), 7.30pm*



## CINEMA

### WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-925 9772) @ Baker Street  
Psycho 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
The X-Files 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0171-930 0631) @ Piccadilly  
Circus The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm  
Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm  
Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm  
The Prisoner 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-427 3561) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Lethal 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8pm  
Love And Death On Long Island 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square  
Tottenham Court Road Hana-Bi 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 8.50pm  
The X-Files 1.25pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square  
Piccadilly Circus Le Bossu 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
The Daytrippers 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm  
The Daytrippers Harry 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm  
8.40pm  
La Grande Illusion 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Courtney 8.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road  
The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-382 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican  
The Horse Whisperer 5.30pm, 8.30pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 2.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square  
The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square  
The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park  
Le Bossu 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4958) @ Elephant & Castle  
Dr Dolittle phone for times  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 8.35pm  
Species II 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 8.35pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square  
Godzilla 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm, 10.30pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill  
Gate The Spanish Prisoner 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) @ Hammersmith  
Dr Dolittle 12.00pm, 2pm, 4pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.20pm, 4.50pm, 8.15pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm  
Species II 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm  
The X-Files 6pm, 9pm

METRO (0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Latin American Film Festival phone for details

CURZON TINEA (0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge  
Hana-Bi 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill  
Gate The Horse Whisperer 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town  
Armageddon 8.15pm  
The Daytrippers 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm, 10.20pm  
The X-Files 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm, 10.20pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-727 6705) @ Baker Street  
The Horse Whisperer 3.05pm, 7.45pm, 10.20pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-426 2229) @ Angel/Highbury & Islington  
The Spanish Prisoner 6.20pm, 8.45pm

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 12.00pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm  
The X-Files 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly  
Circus The X-Files 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) @ High Street  
Kensington Armageddon 5.10pm, 8.35pm  
Dr Dolittle 12.50pm, 3pm  
He Got Game 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm  
The Little Mermaid 11.40am, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm  
The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square  
The Horse Whisperer 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.50pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch  
Armageddon 2.05pm, 5.25pm, 8.45pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 10.15pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.15pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm  
Species II 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm  
The X-Files 12.20pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square  
Eve's Bayou 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm  
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm  
Six Days Of Disco 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm  
Titanic 12.05pm, 3.45pm, 7.25pm  
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage  
Armageddon 2pm, 5pm, 8pm  
He Got Game 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm  
The Horse Whisperer 12.30pm, 4.05pm, 7.45pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm  
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square  
Lost In Space 12.00pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm  
The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley  
The Spanish Prisoner 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Armageddon 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm  
Eve's Bayou 1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm  
Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square  
Gadjo Dilo 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm  
Hands (aka Palms) 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) @ Dalston  
Kingsland Barney's Great Adventure Mon 2pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-737 2121/733 2229) @ Brixton  
He Got Game 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 10.15pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.00pm, 9.50pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-485 0036) @ Baker Street  
The Horse Whisperer 3.05pm, 7.45pm, 10.20pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-426 2229) @ Angel/Highbury & Islington  
The Spanish Prisoner 6.20pm, 8.45pm

ACTON PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) @ Park Royal  
Armageddon 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm  
The Horse Whisperer 5.05pm, 8.20pm  
Dr Dolittle 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm  
Eve's Bayou 7.30pm  
Gang Related 10pm  
Godzilla 1.30pm, 4.35pm, 7.40pm  
He Got Game 2.10pm, 7.10pm, 10.10pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 7.40pm, 10.40pm  
Sliding Doors 1.40pm, 4.40pm, 7.40pm, 10.40pm  
The X-Files 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

BARKING ODEON (0181-507 8444) @ Barking  
Armageddon 8pm  
Dr Dolittle 12.55pm, 2.40pm, 4.25pm, 6.10pm  
Godzilla 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.40pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 3.50pm, 7.40pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm  
Lost In Space 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm  
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm

BARNET ODEON (0181-315 4210) @ High Barnet  
Armageddon 1.45pm, 4.50pm, 8pm  
Barney's Great Adventure 12.05pm, 3.05pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm  
Lost In Space 2.35pm, 5.25pm  
The Real Howard Spitz 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 10.15pm  
Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm  
The X-Files 1pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9pm, 10pm

BECKENHAM CINEMA (0870-9020412) @ Beckenham Junction  
Armageddon phone for times  
Barney's Great Adventure 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm  
The Horse Whisperer 2.20pm, 7.45pm  
Paulie 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm  
The X-Files phone for times

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) @ Bexleyheath  
Armageddon 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5pm, 8pm, 9.10pm  
Barney's Great Adventure 11.15am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm  
Godzilla 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm  
The Horse Whisperer 11.30am, 2.45pm, 6pm, 8pm  
The Little Mermaid 11am, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.45pm, 5.15pm, 7.35pm, 10pm  
Lost In Space 12.45pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm  
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 11am, 12.00pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
The X-Files 1.30pm, 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm

BROMLEY ODEON (0181-315 4211) @ Bromley North/Bromley South  
Armageddon 8.10pm, 9.30pm  
Dr Dolittle 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm  
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm  
The X-Files 2.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) @ Catford  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.15pm,







# MONDAY RADIO

## PICK OF THE DAY

**HIPPY FODDER** or genuine therapy? Anna Hill puts an array of oils to the test in African Aromatherapy (11am R4). She meets the farmers who grow the ingredients, and investigates some of the local plants that were initially grown for medical purposes and have now been appropriated by aromatherapists. **Kelko's Story** (9pm R4) follows the fate of the acclaimed

actor **Kelko** (right), aka Willy, the killer whale who narrowly escaped becoming fish pie in two Hollywood blockbusters. Despite being a symbol of freedom, Kelko has found himself trapped in Tinseltown. Now, on the eve of his return to Iceland, Mark Carwardine discovers Kelko's contribution to the progress of science during his captivity. **PIONA STURGES**



## Radio 5 Live

(893, 909kHz MW)  
5.00 Breakfast  
5.00 Nicky Campbell  
12.00 The Midday News  
12.00 Ruscoe and Co.  
4.00 Nationwide  
7.00 News Extra  
7.30 Master Managers. Bryon Butler reassesses the careers of six out-standing postwar football managers.  
3. Alf Ramsey  
8.00 England's World Cup. Alan Green presents an in-depth look at England's chances of staging the 2006 World Cup. The panel includes Sir Geoff Hurst.  
10.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today, including at 10.30 a full round-up of the day's sport, and at 11.00 a late news briefing.  
1.00 Up At Night  
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

**Classic FM** (100.1-101.9MHz FM)  
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Michael Mappin. 6.30 News. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**Virgin Radio** (125.1-127.2MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Bobby Hain. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Mark Forrest. 7.00 Paul Coyte. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Paul Coyte. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

**World Service** (198kHz LW)  
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Seven Days. 2.45 Bringing Up Baby. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 On Screen. 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.35 Sports Roundup. 4.30 - 7.00 The World Today.

**Talk Radio**  
7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter De-ley. 7.00 Nick Abbot. 9.00 James Whale. 1.00 Ian Collins. 5.00 - 7.00 Early Show with Bill Overton.

on offer in Blair's new Britain. 9.00 NEWS; Kelko's Story. Preparations for the return to Iceland of the killer whale who starred in the film *Free Willy* have provided scientists with revelatory new discoveries about the mammal. But, as Mark Carwardine finds out, controversy continues to surround Kelko's real-life journey to freedom. See *Pick of the Day*. 9.30 A Week with... Behind the scenes of the week's big event. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Isabel Hilton. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Among the ruins, Gerard McSorley reads the first of five short stories by Brian Friel. When Joe and his family return to Connemara, he is visited by old memories and an unexpected realisation. 11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. For a charity that helps those affected by Huntington's disease. 11.02 Antoine et Dougie. 11.30 The Music That Binds Us. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. (R) 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

**Radio 4 LW** (198kHz)  
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.34 - 5.37 Shipping Forecast.

University of Chicago, champions the thinking of the ancient Stoics about our obligations to one another as citizens of the world. She argues that we need to develop further their theories of international law. (R) 10.40 A Secret Mass. A BBC invitation concert recreates the sounds of a clandestine Catholic mass as it might have been heard in the early 17th century. William Byrd's five-part mass is interwoven with motets from his 1605 Gradualia and organ works by contemporaries Orlando Gibbons, John Bull and Thomas Tomkins. Choir of Westminster Cathedral, Andrew Reid (organ)/James O'Donnell. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Proms Composers of Week: Hanns Eisler and Kurt Weill. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**Radio 4** (92.4-94.5MHz FM)  
6.00 Today. 9.00 A Week with... 9.30 Let the Rumpus Begin. (R) 9.45 The Owl's Watchdog. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS; African Aromatherapy. See *Pick of the Day*. 11.30 Little Novels. (R) 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Words in Music. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.45 Afternoon Play: From a Distance. 3.00 Money Box Live. 3.30 Blind Man on Rampage. (R) 3.45 The Lyrical Ballads.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

**THE NEW YORKER** called *Singin' in the Rain* (9pm TNT) "perhaps the most enjoyable of all movie musicals", and who are we to disagree, with that assessment of Gene Kelly (right) and Stanley Donen's enduring classic about Hollywood's move from silent to talkies? It may be shown often, but the sequence in which Kelly sings and dances in the rain never loses its lustre. The key to the success of *Red Dwarf* (9pm UK Gold) is the

contrasting characters of the bickering space-travellers stuck together in the craft. The BBC's long-running sci-fi sitcom has some of the most devoted fans around: they go to conventions wearing *Rimmer's* "R" on their foreheads. Those aficionados will be delighted by the prospect of a six-pack of episodes tonight. As Lister would no doubt advise you, lay on extra supplies of lager and curry.

JAMES RAMPTON



**Space Nine** (8.27-9.23) *Nowhere Man* (8.59-9.55). 1.30 - 1.40 Long Play (8.59-9.55).  
**Sky Sports 1** 7.00 Football League Review Oxford v Portsmouth (21.45). 8.30 Racing News (8.15). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (8.45). 9.30 Baseball - St. Louis Cardinals (8.45). 10.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (9.15). 10.30 What a Weekend (9.15). 11.00 Cricket - Ashes Life League Gloucester v Somerset (9.30). 11.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 12.30 Football League Review (9.30). 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 1.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 2.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 3.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 4.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 5.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 6.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 8.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 9.30 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (9.30). 10.30 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preacher of *Survivor's Remorse* turned up on her doorstep. Then, with the contestant settled on the studio sofa, someone had the rude idea of showing them a video diary of that week's preparation, while on-laud allowed you to watch them watching. Don't think where I've seen that before. But there's no danger. Consequence with Bethel Dole ending to match the frightening plausibility of Lee's creeping retreat into psychopathology – like an evergreening sitcom, Alice exhibited him through the eyes with a killing wedge. But, as the unhappy couple, David Morossey, and Amanda Root can probably look their nigger at the Baines now. *Thomas Sutcliffe* is an avoided

# Channel 5

1000

MOVIE CLUB:  
CAGED HEAT.  
Directed by  
Jonathon Demme.  
Tonight at 10.00pm.  
**UK ARENA**

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## PM

### DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

**1.00 English, English** (BBC) (1992/93). 1.00 English, English. A documentary about the English language and its influence on the world.

### DRAMA OF THE DAY

**1.00 The Big Bang** (BBC) (1992/93). 1.00 The Big Bang. A comedy series about a group of friends living in a flat in London.

### FILM OF THE DAY

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